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African Violet MAGAZINE

January • February 2009 Volume 62 Number 1

AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007:

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Office Manager, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST. *E-mail* <avsa@earthlink.net>

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725. Remit in U.S. dollars with draft or check on a USA bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

Individual Membership USA ($30.00)
Associate Member USA ($15.00-no magazine)
(Must reside at same address as a person having any other Class of membership)
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International Associate, Canada ($17.50)
International Individual, other than Canada ($40.00)
International Associate, other than Canada ($20.00)
Commercial USA - ($60.00)
Commercial, Canada - ($65.00)
Commercial International, other than Canada ($70.00)
Affiliate Chapter, including local, state, regional, and Judge's councils, USA ($35.00)
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Affiliate Chapter International, other than Canada, ($45.00)
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Life Member International ($750.00)

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Barb Trotsky, 10 Buell Mansion Pkwy, Englewood, CO 80113. *E-mail* <barbtrotsky@msn.com>.

AFFILIATES: For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Lynne Wilson, 645 Hudson Ave., Tampa, FL 33606. *Email*: tpalynne@tampabay.rr.com

AVSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: Dr. Elmer Godeny, 11473 Denham Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713. For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Lynn Lombard, *Email*: lynn_lombard@worldnet.att.net

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Judy Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012-8509. *Email* <AVSAawards@valomet. com>.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Linda Owens, Convention Director, 1762 Stemwood, Columbus, OH, 43228, *Email*:< ldowens@columbus.rr.com> If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Reno, NV - April 13 - April 17, 2009.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of $15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in September issue. **Requests must be in writing.** List top 3 choices. **Allow 6 weeks for delivery.** If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Anne Nicholas, 3113 Deerfield Dr., Denton, TX 76208.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: Download from AVSA website, or order from AVSA office for $1.00. Orders in writing only. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to: Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 50130.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60203-2667. *E-mail* <janice@qwip.net>.

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified, potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: For information on Shows, AVSA Awards, and Approving Schedules write to: Meredith Hall, P. O. Box 370, Marlin, TX 76661. *E-mail* <mhall370@earthlink.net>. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.** Please check for new prices on AVSA Show Packets.

Due to increases in shipping costs, the following rates for the SSA packet and AVSA collection rosettes are effective now: $5.00 when requesting the SSA packet with no rosettes; $12.50 when requesting the SSA packet and one or two rosettes; $20.00 when requesting the SSA packet and two sets of rosettes.

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE INFORMATION

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor. **Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists:** Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Editor.

Coming Events Deadlines: - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Cindi Nofziger, 1500 NE Mayview, Albany, OR 97321. *E-mail* <ccnofziger@comcast.net> **(Ad rates on web site: AVSA.org).**

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan/Feb. issue - Nov. 1; Mar/Apr. issue - Jan. 1; May/June issue - Mar. 1; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 1; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 1.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 20719 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Shirley Berger, 2822 S. Mainsail Dr., Avon Park, FL 33825.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1958.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Susan Hapner, 35 Ridge Point Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

TALLY TIME: Heather Menzel, 135 N. Main St., Yardley, PA 19057. *E-mail* <hmenzel@erols.com>.

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African Violet MAGAZINE

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

By Joyce Stork, President

2501 E. 23rd Ave. S • Fremont, NE 68025

Email: **kents@tvsonline.net**

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I hope that all of you will be successful in keeping the resolution to take good care of your violets and other gesneriads in 2009. My plants would certainly appreciate a little more attention than they have received in the last two years. Along the way, remember to take good care of the people in your lives who also love African violets. Invite them to club meetings, stay in contact with them, and take every opportunity to teach the skills of growing (and to learn more skills too). Make sure your violet friends know about the benefits that AVSA can offer them and encourage them to find us!

The Reno AVSA Convention is coming! This issue has all the details, including the schedule, tours and presentations information, and the registration forms. The convention will be early this year, so don't delay getting your reservations made early. As I mentioned in November, the schedule will be a bit different this year with almost everything occurring a day earlier than usual. Entries will be on Tuesday; the show will open after the first banquet on Wednesday evening and will close on Friday. On Saturday, when everything else is done, we will unwind by taking the final tour to cruise beautiful Lake Tahoe. A number of airlines serve Reno; and their rates will appear on Expedia, Travelocity, or similar travel websites. Don't forget also to check the prices from Southwest Airlines which provides many flights into Reno/Tahoe – their rates are only available by contacting them directly by phone or at www.southwest.com.

This issue also lists those individuals who have been nominated to serve as your officers and directors for the coming years. First of all, thank you and congratulations to the fine individuals who have made the commitment to serve AVSA in this way. The Nominating Committee work goes on year-round, as nominations are always being sought. At any time, there are fifteen directors on the board who represent all areas of the US as well as our international members. AVSA is always hoping to find individuals who are leaders locally and who attend conventions regularly. The directors are the future leadership of AVSA, since all officer candidates must have at least three years of board experience to be eligible for nomination. If you or your affiliate club would like to submit the name of a qualified individual for consideration, you will find a nominating questionnaire on the "Forms, Manual, and Reports" page at www.avsa.org. If you have questions, please contact the chairman of the 2008 Nominating committee, Janet Riemer (j_riemer@comcast.net), or the chairman of the 2009 committee, Anne Nicholas (RandANicho@aol.com).

This is a good time to mention the hard work that is going on behind the scenes by the Internet Committee and the Technology Committee. Both groups, chaired by James Rubottom and John Carter, have the responsibility of coordinating decisions regarding the planned upgrade of the AVSA website as well as our financial software. Because the AVSA Store page has become so successful, we need to maximize the efficient flow of information between the office and the website. Making good decisions now requires lots of research and discussion so that in the future we can have a top-notch store where you (and future members) can easily make purchases and renew memberships securely. Thanks to James and John, we are making good progress. You might have noticed that we projected a possible cost of $30,000 for this upgrade... we hope to come in well under that number, but good technology can be expensive. If you love and use the AVSA website as often as I do, I'll hope that you or your affiliate will consider making a gift to the Booster Fund specifically for the website upgrade.

Plans are well underway for the 2010 AVSA Calendar! Here we are just barely into 2009 and we are already planning for the next decade. Only Nancy Hayes, Calendar Editor, knows whose plants will be featured in the coming edition! This is the third calendar in the series and it will be released for the first time at the Reno convention. You can have your copy waiting by pre-ordering it on the convention registration form. Note that this year there are also pre-order discounted prices for purchases of larger quantities which should be especially helpful for affiliates. Talk to your club members now and save money!

The *AVSA Show Entries* program, used extensively by the affiliates to ease classification and entries in their shows, has been updated. Joe Bruns promises that the update will be available at convention in April (or in May if shipped from the office) in a CD ROM format for just $10. A presentation by John Carter on how to use the program, including the new features, will be a part of the 2009 Reno convention schedule. The original software program will still work fine if affiliates choose not to purchase this update, but the update will add some bells and whistles to make shows go even more smoothly. Affiliates buying *AVSA Show Entries* software for the first time will receive the new version for $27.50. Note that prices may vary for international shipping.

Finally, a question came to me regarding the species article written by Jeff Smith, Barbara Pershing, and Bill Price in the November 2008 *African Violet Magazine* (pp 42-45) asking when the changes would go into effect. Joe Bruns advised me that "the new species classification will be in the January *First Class* database update." Clubs that use both the *AVSA Show Entries* program and *First Class* to do entries will now automatically have the new species numbering system available with no additional steps except to be sure that *First Class* is updated after January 1, 2009. Clubs doing entries by hand will want to use the list printed at the end of the November article if they wish to be precisely correct.

Happy Growing!

Joyce Stork

Joyce Stork
President, AVSA

Editor's Notes

By Ruth Rumsey, AVM Editor

2375 North Street • Beaumont, TX 77702
Email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

This issue of the AVM contains the **2009 Reno Convention Insert**. This insert contains all of the information you need to make your convention plans. The show schedule is there, as well as descriptions of the presentations and tours offered for the Reno area. Please make your selections and register right away. This convention is from April 13 – 17, 2009, which is very early. Please heed the deadlines, and don't wait until the last moment to register.

On the last four pages of this issue you will find the **Annual Index of 2008**. This is a wonderful tool to use when looking up a particular article or color photos that appeared in the AVM during the last year. For the last *fifteen years*, **Bill Paauwe** has compiled this index for us with the help of his wife and committee member, **Kathryn**.

The Paauwes are another example of long-time volunteers to our society who graciously give their personal time to make a difference in the AVSA.

The long awaited article on "Growing and Flowering *Saintpaulia goetzeana,*" by **Mr. Kenji Hirose** of Himeji, Hyogo, Japan, begins on page 12 in this issue. This article explains the experimentation, reasoning, and discoveries that led Mr. Hirose to succeed in his quest to have the species plant *S. goetzeana* produce flowers.

The photos meticulously track this journey, and will encourage many growers of African violets to seek the same success.

Last year, at the 2008 convention, I was given a book of photos, taken by Mr. Hirose that documented his success with this project. During the convention, I showed the photos to many African violet friends, growers of the species plants, and heard their excitement and interest in this article appearing in the AVM. I also received the article and the photos on a disk, which is now in the AVSA archives.

Thank you, Mr. Hirose, for sharing your expertise and knowledge with the African Violet Society of America.

Office of the African Violet Society of America

During the last four months of 2008, southeast Texas experienced some newsworthy weather! We dealt with Hurricane Ike, which was not as damaging to the AVSA office or our homes, as the storm three years earlier, and in the early morning hours of December 10th, Beaumont and the surrounding area received up to five inches of snow!

It didn't last long, but Beaumonters took advantage of it. The schools did not open until late morning, and there were snowmen in most neighborhoods. One near the AVSA office had deer antlers on its head!

Secretary Amy Carruth and Grant

Requests for more design photos sent me to **Winston Goretsky**, our AVSA Photographer. On page 52 see "Violets for all Seasons," design photos from the AVS of Canada's 2008 convention and show.

Be sure to read **Bill Price's** review of the new version of **Pauline Bartholomew's** *Growing to Show*. Pauline gave the rights to the book to AVSA several years ago, and now, it has been updated and with the addition of color, this African violet grower's manual is a "must-have" for today's growers, novice to show winner. Read Bill's review on page 7.

Our President, **Joyce Stork**, is always ready to get information about growing African violets to our members. In this issue, Joyce shares "The Mystery of the 'White Pellets'" on page 34, and "Springtails," on page 46.

"And the winners are ..."

434 Plumwood Way • Fairview, TX 75069

AVS OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Pawnee, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Optimara Little Omaha; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita tamiana*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gary Beck.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Victorian Parasol; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Trailer: Cirelda, **Madelaine Taube.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Sam McKenna.**

LAKESHORE AVS, IL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Tomahawk, Snow Squall; Best in Show/Best Standard: Harbor Blue; Best Trailer: Sweet Amy Sue, **Patricia Harms.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Satin Rose; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* Sport of 'Bristol's Lily White', **Morgan Simmons.** Best Miniature: Taj Mahal, **Patrice Bender.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola,* **Kathy Pozzi.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Lana Gernady.** Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Harold Appleton.**

METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS AV COUNCIL, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pink Sensation, RM's Galactic Star, Buckeye Love's Caress; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Sister, Mac's Southern Springtime, Ness' Mini Sota; Best in Show/Best Trailer/Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Semiminiature: Mac's Flamboyant Flame, **Marsha Gustafson.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Rhapsodie Rebecca, Powwow; Best Standard: Hawaiian Pearl; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Fran Russom.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Combustible Pigeon, Optimara Little Pawnee, Optimara Little Pueblo, **Susan Hapner.** Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Maassen's Flame', **John Williams.** Best Design, **Bonnie Russom.** Design Sweepstakes, **Patricia Dunlap and Gary Dunlap (tie).**

TIDEWATER AVS, VA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Okie Easter Bunny, Lyon's Northern Star, Nancy Reagan; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Jolly Mischief, Rob's Pink Puff, Rob's Hand Puppet; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Blue; Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Best Semiminiature: Ness' Angel Face; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Karlyn'; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Pat Knight.** Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Adrienne Topping.**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO AVSA BYLAWS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposed amendment to AVSA Bylaws **Article IX Finance, Section 3 Investments, subparagraph 3** will be voted on at the AVSA 2009 Annual Convention at Reno, NV.

Mary Lou Harden, *Chair, AVSA Bylaws Committee*
Christel H. Collier
Ruth Goeke
Bob Green
Sue Ramser
Lynne Wilson

Current Bylaws:

Article IX – Finance
Section 3 - Investments
Subparagraph 3:

All monies received from the commercial membership dues over and above three dollars more than individual membership dues shall be deposited in the Boyce Edens Research Fund special investment account. Individual donations to this fund shall also be deposited in the Boyce Edens Research Fund special investment account.

Proposed amendment:

Article IX – Finance
Section 3 – Investments
Subparagraph 3 - Delete in its entirety.
Thereafter, renumber Sections 4 and 5.

Rationale:

Reference in bylaws to dollar amounts is inappropriate since dollar values change over time. Changing bylaws is time-consuming and cumbersome, whereas the Board can more easily and efficiently make necessary changes involving dollar amounts. The AVSA's Policies and Procedures Manual is the appropriate place to reference dollar amounts.

AVSA Leadership

By John Carter, Third Vice President

Following the convention in Tulsa, questions were submitted to the Executive Committee about how committees function, how leaders are chosen, and how we survive as an organization with only volunteer leaders. This is being written to help answer questions from that person and probably questions that others have had but never asked.

The true strength in AVSA is in its membership. Every member contributes to the organization in some way, even if it is just paying their membership fees. A lot of the work necessary to keep the African Violet Society of America viable is done in our headquarters located in Beaumont, Texas, by our office manager, Jenny Daugereau, and her assistant Amy Carruth. They are there to answer the phone and assist members with their orders for programs and products to support our members' African violet hobby. They handle the membership renewals and new member applications. Ruth Rumsey is in the office as the Editor of our *African Violet Magazine*. That is her sole function, and a full time job.

Members who attend the conventions are more visible and more quickly approached to serve on committees. It is not a requirement, though, and there are a number of committee members who have not or cannot attend conventions. Serving on a committee is the best place to learn more about the functions of AVSA. A given committee will have a specific function so that you learn more about that function and the impact it has on AVSA. Serving on multiple committees or moving to different committees gives a person a broader perspective. Committees can establish a budget to cover their expenses if they have any. You may contact committee chairs through the website, or you can contact any of the officers listed in the front of every magazine.

Serving on a committee is the best place to learn more about the functions of AVSA. A given committee will have a specific function so that you learn more about that function and the impact it has on AVSA. Serving on multiple committees or moving to different committees gives a person a broader perspective.

After becoming familiar with at least some of the functions of AVSA, and if you are willing and able to attend the AVSA board meetings which are held at the convention, you may apply to serve as a director. Don't be disappointed if you are not selected the first year. Your application will be retained for several years. Five directors are elected every year for a term of 3 years. You will still be needed to serve on your committees but will have added responsibilities of attending the annual board and membership meetings and helping at the AVSA sales table and assisting in the teardown of the convention. In this position, you will learn a lot more about AVSA and the business side of the organization.

After serving as a director, if you feel that you have the ability and time to serve in an elected officer position, then I encourage you to apply for the position most matching your skills and abilities. Elected officers serve a term of two years and may not succeed themselves with the exception of Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer may serve up to four consecutive terms (eight years). Elections are held every two years at the annual meeting of the membership. You have a vote! The officers are responsible for the costs of attending conventions and any other meeting they are required to attend.

One of the most demanding but less visible jobs is that of the Secretary. You have probably seen the minutes published in the AVM. This is only part of the job. There are agendas to prepare and Executive Committee meetings to attend and to prepare minutes for. The Secretary is also responsible for maintaining the Bylaws of the organization and the Policies and Procedures manual. It is a year-round job but very rewarding in satisfaction for supporting the organization.

The office of Treasurer is another very important job and best filled by a person that has skills in bookkeeping, accounting, and computing. The Treasurer is responsible for paying part of the bills and in maintaining good financial records and making reports to the Executive Committee. Again, this is another year-round job.

The path to President is well laid out and designed to prepare an individual for the office. The normal progression is to serve two years each as third vice president, second vice president, first vice president, president, and then two years as immediate past president. This is a ten year commitment of your time and service. In each position, you are responsible for several different committees which further your knowledge of AVSA and the areas that must function properly for the organization to continue serving the membership. These officers have meetings almost every day during the convention and will meet once in the fall, often at the Beaumont office. There are weekly if not daily emails to respond to. Again, it is a year-round position and can have its challenges as well as rewards.

A nominating committee is elected by the board of directors during the annual board meeting held during the convention. The nominating committee can only work with applications it has received. For each elected position, other than continuing officers, the committee is to have at least two candidates with completed applications and references. Sometimes the committee has to seek out applicants to be able to meet this requirement. You can help in this matter by submitting an application at any time. Please ask permission to use the names of the persons you use as a reference. Applications can be found on the website and should be mailed to the Beaumont office where they will be forwarded to the nominating committee chairperson. Your application will be held on file for several years. It is not often that your application is accepted the first year you submit it, but you will hear something from the nominating committee.

There is nothing secret about how AVSA functions, gets its funds, or spends its funds. AVSA, as many horticultural organizations, has had declining membership for a number of years. AVSA's number one need at this time is membership. Make sure that you renew your membership promptly and talk to your friends and affiliate members about joining you as AVSA members. You might also consider giving a gift membership for a special occasion or to a school or library. Please consider stepping beyond your payment of dues and serving our great organization in additional ways. AVSA needs you!

Review of Pauline Bartholomew's

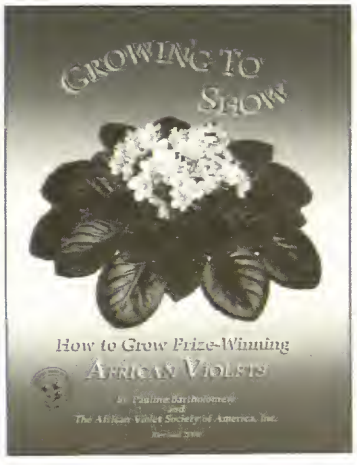
Growing to Show

Updated by the African Violet Society of America, **Barbara Pershing**, *Publications Chairman*

By Bill Price

It's been well worth the wait for this newest edition of 'Growing to Show'! Barbara Pershing and her AVSA team have done a great job in editing and updating Pauline Bartholomew's classic manual. Most of us have well-worn copies of older versions and have appreciated all the great information contained in them. Now with this new and revised edition, we are presented with the best of what we currently know about growing and showing our beautiful plants!

The book is roughly the same size as the previous edition, about 120 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" soft cover format, about 1/2" thick. Unlike the drawings that were on previous editions, the cover features a color photo of 'Fresh Air', a 2008 new introduction by Kent Stork. As in previous editions, it is divided into numerous sections with many line drawings illustrating the points being discussed.



Unlike previous editions, this one starts off with a several page set of color photos of award winning plants - a great welcome and introduction to the valuable information that follows!

The organization and order of the chapters is slightly different and reviews all aspects of growing including tools, pots, lighting, temperature, soil mix, pests, pesticides, watering, and fertilizing, etc. Styles and growing techniques have changed over the years as is evidenced, for example, by less emphasis on 'Oyama' pots in this current edition and greater focus on current practices such as wick and mat watering.

Updated information in several areas is very welcome. The sections on lighting, potting mixes, pests, and pesticides are particularly noteworthy in this regard. In my opinion, the section on pesticides is up to date and accurately reflects the problems and the available products and their effectiveness. It is a real pleasure to read well summarized, currently pertinent data!

More up to date information is also presented in the chapters on plant varieties and blossom and foliage types as well as about the AVSA Honor Role and 'First Class'. Expanded sections on miniatures, semi-miniatures, trailers, and species are also appreciated.

And great advice is also given about preparing and transporting plants to shows.

There is even a paragraph devoted to (now plug your ears) 'Reducing the Collection', which of course, we really don't want to hear about, but good advice none the less. The section on 'Psychology of Growing' and 'Tips for Casual Growers' also contains great ideas we all should keep in mind.

In conclusion, this newly revised 'Growing to Show' is a "must have" for beginner and advanced growers alike. Even if you have a well-worn copy of a previous edition, this updated version offers information and growing tips that will make it a good resource for some time to come. I certainly appreciate the great work of the AVSA team in producing it!

Looking for 'Ethel Twiford'

By Kay Mitchell

For a couple of years or so, I've been dilly-dallying around on the internet in hopes of finding the violet 'Ethel Twiford'.

To put this in better perspective, I should explain that Ethel Twiford, now deceased, was a former and very prominent member of the First Goldsboro AVS. I have been a member of this club now for a little over ten years, but unfortunately, I was a little late joining and never had the opportunity to know or meet Ethel. When I discovered through some of our long-time members that Hortense Pittman hybridized, named, and registered a violet in Ethel's honor, I knew I wanted a start of it. I was disappointed when I found that no one in our club was growing it any longer. As a tribute to this lady, I felt that we, as a club, should put forth an effort to get her namesake back into circulation among ourselves. Thus, my search began.

Last year, while browsing and searching various sites, much to my surprise, I found a picture of my sought-after violet. That is when I first knew it was still being grown and was not out of reach for me....or was it? I didn't expect it to be about half way around the world...on a website in Russia! My lack of knowing anything at all about the Russian language stopped me cold in my attempts to find out more about the one shown on this site. Being Russian illiterate, I had no way of making contact with anyone to even beg for a leaf.

From time to time, I continued to look and ask about it. I added it to the AVSA magazine's Most Wanted List, through columnist Barbara Elkin. At times life throws us foul balls and our focus becomes distracted - such was the case for me in early 2007, so I had to focus on health issues for a while, and didn't actively continue my search. I knew I would get back on track as soon as I could.

Sometime earlier this year, I decided to post 'Ethel Twiford' as one of my most wanted violets on the African Violet Brat Pack, an on-line affiliate club of AVSA, of which I'm a member. Meanwhile, if memory serves me correctly, I again found a picture in browsing and it belonged to someone named Bev. Now I not only was searching for 'Ethel Twiford' but someone named Bev! How would I ever find Bev without a last name? I believe I then mentioned this on the forum and another forum member, Kay Darrow, suggested that it was most likely Bev Austin, from CO, also a forum member, but unknown to me at that time. Kay gave me the necessary info to make contact with Bev, and I did so on July 1. Many thanks to Kay Darrow for this link in my search!

At last, my search was over...or so I thought. Bev had two starters and would gladly send me both, but we felt it best to wait on shipping, considering the extremely hot July temperatures. In early August, I decided to contact Bev to check on my plantlets. At that time, I learned Bev could only locate one of the starters so she must have already sold or given the other away. She then broke the news that the only one remaining was looking rather puny and sickly but she would do her very best to nurse it back to health. The violet did not survive, as I learned in early August.

Not to be let down, Bev went into overdrive to help me find this violet again. She encouraged me to contact Doug Crispin, at the Violet Showcase, where she had found her original plant of 'Ethel Twiford,' and she gave me a couple of other contacts. Doug did not have the plant at the time, but agreed to post my name on his board. Hopefully, as his customers stopped by, someone that had previously purchased 'Ethel Twiford' would have leaves or starters to share.

Meanwhile, Bev was still asking around and found that a Colorado friend, Claire Zimmerman, would be visiting and she was bringing along 'Ethel Twiford.' Claire decided to crown the plant, and Bev would be mailing me the rest to grow suckers. What great news - again proving that violet people are the very best! At last I have 'Ethel Twiford' in my possession, having received the plant on October 2nd. A couple of detached leaves were also put down for added insurance. As of this writing, October 28th, this plant has at least six healthy suckers growing like little weeds.

But just like the energizer bunny, Bev was still going strong about finding more plants for me. What can I say, Bev is a gem! She emails to say that at another show/sale, Doug of the Violet Showcase has two plants for her to forward to me! These two arrived October 17th and are looking very good...minus a few broken leaves that are also now rooting to make more babies.

I am so happy about finding this plant again. I simply wanted to share my joy with all of you. Never give up looking for a special plant! Get the word out about your search, and someone may just have it or know of someone that does.

Also, my heartfelt thanks to Kay Darrow, Claire Zimmerman, Doug Crispin, and last, but certainly not least, Bev Austin. If there are others along the way, unknown to me, that had any part in my getting this plant, I also thank you.

I can't help but feel that Ethel Twiford, a lady I never knew, is smiling and thanking each of you too!

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Buckeye Sentimental Reasons

Exhibited by: ***Bill Sugg***

Hybridized by: ***P. Hancock***

Large

In Search of New Violets

47306

Ball State University • Muncie, IN

Have you ever considered using the *Saintpaulia* species in your hybridization crosses? Perhaps the picture of the stunning species specimen that was Best in Show in Tulsa was an inspiration, or perhaps it is the attention drawn to the species with the recent changes in their registration numbers, but there seems to be an increased interest in using the species in hybridization programs. What can the species contribute to your hybridization efforts? What problems do you need to consider? The questions in this issue's column may give you some ideas.

Q: What traits can the species contribute to my hybridization program?

A: The best traits to try to tap into from the species are their foliage types and growth forms. The species are much more variable in their foliage than are the modern cultivars and hybrids. The texture of the leaves in the species can be shiny to extremely hairy. The leaves can be flat or wrinkled. The tips of the leaves can be highly pointed or smooth and round. The leaf shape can be elongated or nearly circular. The edges of the leaves can be smooth or highly toothed. All of these characteristics are traits that a hybridizer might wish to incorporate into new hybrids.

The species that was Best in Show in Tulsa, *Saintpaulia tongwensis* Uppsala 3397 (now written as 5c1 cl. *tongwensis* Uppsala 3397) has pale green-yellow veins. While this coloration is not a true type of leaf variegation, the pattern is very interesting and should be a trait that could be passed on to offspring. This plant also produces more than one flower stalk per leaf increasing the number of flowers. What hybridizer wouldn't want that trait for their hybrids?

Hybridizers that have a goal to develop trailers that branch freely might also consider tapping into the trailing species for that this trait. Many growers forget that our trailer cultivars were actually developed originally from the species, so using them again will help extend the number of trailing cultivars available.

Q: Do I have to worry about fertility problems or hybridization barriers when using the species?

A: Generally speaking, there shouldn't be any fertility problems or barriers in hybridizing with the species. Any of the subspecies and clones *S. ionantha* should be fertile with each other. Although not all combinations of crosses have been tried, those that have been have reported no problems.

Two species that might have some hybridization barriers are *S. shumensis* and *S. nitida*. These two species have been reported to have some barriers to hybridizing with other species. However, there are some reports that working with mature plants and repeated efforts may eventually produce hybrids with these plants.

With some of the other species, the problem will be in availability of the plants or getting them to flower. *S. goetzeana,* for example, is grown by many but seems reluctant to flower in cultivation. Getting any flowers on this species to work with for hybridization will be the problem. Two of the miniature species, *S. inconspicua* and *S. pusilla,* are not yet available in cultivation. To the best of my knowledge, no hybridization experiments have been attempted with these two plants. If they do become available and if they are fertile with modern cultivars, they may offer some interesting ways to develop new miniature plants.

Q: What traits might the modern cultivars bring into a cross with the species that would be helpful?

A: Probably the most useful trait to bring in from a modern cultivar would be double flowers. All species have single flowers that drop. The double flower mutation (also semi-double flowers) is a mutation that appeared early in African violet history. Since double flowers are a dominant trait, it is easy to use a hybrid cultivar to bring this valuable trait to a cross with the species.

There are a number of other useful dominant traits that modern cultivars can bring to a cross using the species. These include: Geneva edges, raspberry edges, fantasy markings, thumbprint marks, and wasp shaped flowers. The species contain the recessives for these traits. A cross with a modern cultivar should result in 50% of the F1 offspring expressing the trait.

Q: What traits will be more difficult to work with when hybridizing with the species?

A: The recessive traits such as pink or red flowers, the coral family of flower colors, and star shaped flowers will be more difficult to work with in crosses with the species. The species contain the dominant form of these traits. For example, blue is the most dominant flower color, and all of the species have blue flowers. A cross with the species will give 100% blue offspring in the F1 generation. Likewise, the pansy flower shape of the species is a genetic dominant to star shaped flowers. All of the F1 offspring will have pansy shaped flowers. In order to get the recessive trait combined with the foliage traits of the species, a hybridizer will likely have to cross the best F1 plants together and go to the F2 generation. About 25% of the F2 offspring should express the recessive trait, hopefully in combination with good characteristics from the species grandparent.

AVSA Reno Convention 2009
"African Violets in the Biggest Little City"

By Lynn Lombard

Reno, Sparks. and Lake Tahoe ~ what a winning deal!!! Although YOU'RE coming for the violet convention, the greater Reno area is truly a family destination.

There's something for everyone: gambling, shopping (including for outdoors enthusiasts a Cabela's and a Scheel's ~ which has 2 16,000-gallon aquariums and a ferris wheel inside it!), fine dining, golf, museums (including the Mackay School of Mines mineral and sterling silver collection and the Pyramid Lake Indian Museum), Old West mining towns, and skiing at Tahoe. Don't miss the gondola ride to the top of Heavenly for a spectacular view of the snow-capped Sierra Nevada mountains and Lake Tahoe. Be sure to check out these and other Reno area attractions online. And of course, we'll share our "insiders' favorites" with you at the Information Table.

The Nugget offers 7 on-site dining options, and there are numerous local restaurants within easy walking distance. Prices are VERY reasonable. The rooms AVSA has reserved are lovely and can accommodate up to four people.

African Violets

AVSA

RENO

2009

Around The Biggest Little City

When you pack for Reno, please remember that April is a transitional time of year, meaning the layered look is your best bet. This is the high desert, and the wind can blow. April can be very warm and very cold, and it can even snow at the higher elevations around Tahoe. You'll want to check www.weather.com just before you pack.

Speaking of packing, the Reno convention will offer a packing station so you can ship your plant purchases home and avoid possible baggage issues with the airlines. Materials will be provided, and you'll just pay for USPS Flat Rate shipping. Easy and convenient, too!

Commercial vendors already planning to participate include Lyon Greenhouses, the Violet Barn, Buckeye Violets, Cedar Creek Violets, Kent's Violets, Dave's Violets, Violet Perfection, Belisle, and Perfect Petal (BJ Ohme). There will be literally thousands of plants to buy!

Reno is a family destination, with culture, history, excitement, gaming, and the great outdoors. There's something for everyone! We look forward to having your as our guests!

CHANGE FOR DESIGNERS AT CONVENTION

Because convention-goers are bidding on getting into the show room before anyone else, the Commercial Activities Committee has been asked by the commercial vendors to change the way designers get their plants and flowers for their designs. This means designers will no longer be able to get into the sales room early.

Some commercial vendors will prefer to have a box of plants and flower needs for the designers to choose from in the classification/entries room. The vendor can have someone they know take care of these transactions, or our committee can take care of it for them. We will have receipt books to take down the transaction information for the vendors, and then the designer will complete the transaction when the sales room opens.

Other vendors may prefer that the designers order their materials ahead of time and pick up their order in the classification/entries room or from the commercial vendor's hotel room.

To date, the following vendors have indicated they intend to sell at the Reno convention: Belisle, Buckeye Violets, Cedar Creek Violets, Dave's Plants, Kent's Flowers, Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Perfect Petal (BJ Ohme), Violet Barn, and Violet Perfection. We're sure there will be more!

We think this will work out very well for all concerned. The commercial growers will know what the design classes are and will have materials that would meet the needs of the designers. Finalized plans for this process will be included with your design reservation confirmation, but you're welcome to contact commercial vendors anytime at your convenience.

Thank you for your cooperation in this change.

Commercial Activities Committee

Growing and Flowering *Saintpaulia goetzeana*

By Kenji Hirose
Kjunchi@wing.ocn.ne.jp
Himeji, Hyogo, Japan

I have been working at Hyogo Prefectural Flower Center for seventeen years. H.F.C. is the only place that has the exhibition display space for gesneriads in Japan. I'm growing a total of about 1,100 kinds of Gesneriads, with species and hybrids combined, and have exhibited *Streptcarpus, Aeschynanthus, Columnea, Chirita, Episcia*, and *Saintpaulia*, etc.

Saintpaulia goetzeana grown at H.F.C. flowered in April, 2006. It seemed to be the first time it flowered in Japan. The flowering of *Saintpaulia goetzeana* was so unusual that it was reported on television and in the newspapers. This was a big event for African violet lovers, and visitors from all over Japan came to witness it. In addition, it flowered again in 2007, 2008 - for three years in a row! I have the privilege of reporting on this event.

Display of *Saintpaulia goetzeana*

Saintpaulia goetzeana

This *Saintpaulia* species is native of the Uluguru Mountains district in Tanzania (Altitude 1300-2000m). The local temperature is about 77°F in the daytime. It is likely to fall to 50° F at night.

It is very difficult to grow in pots, because of the peculiar environment of its natural habitat. This plant grows on the surface of moss-covered rocks. The leaf arrangement is opposite. The leaves are small. Leaf margin (edge of the leaf) is entire (smooth) and might roll under the edges of the leaf. The surface of the leaf is a dark green color, and the back is red. The flowers are about 3/4" in diameter, 1-5 per flower stalk, and have lilac upper lobes and white lower lobes. Occasionally, all petals may become white. The flower stalks develop at the junction of the leaf axil and stem of the crown. Bloom shape is typical violet-type, with two upper petals and three below, although it occasionally becomes a star shape.

Flowers of *S. goetzeana*

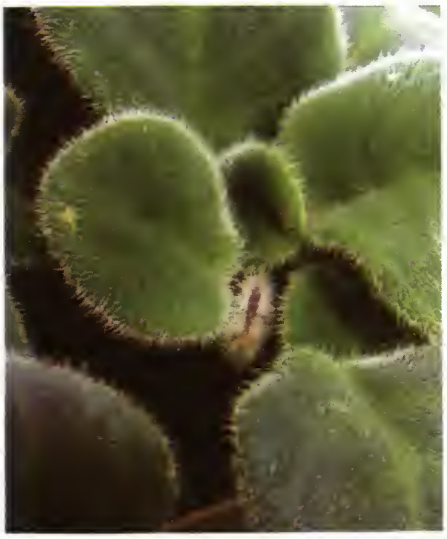
The shape of the flower might change into the star type.

How I Obtained This Plant

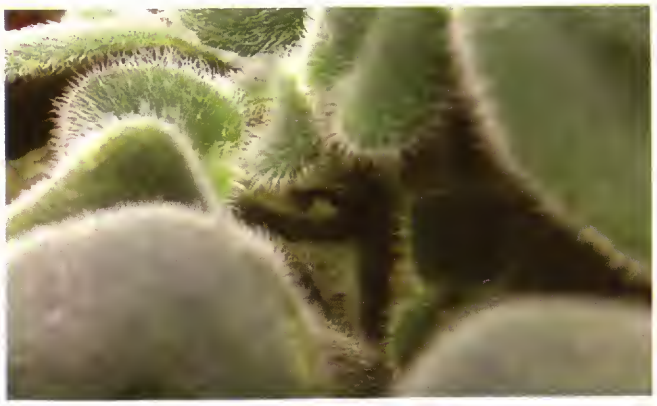
I am continuing to grow, and to exhibit sixteen kinds of *Saintpaulia* species with H.F.C. I wanted to expand my collection, and needed to find someone in Japan who was growing *Saintpaulia goetzeana*. Ryoichi Sakaue, one member of The Japan Gesneriad Society, is growing it. He had imported it from the United States several years ago. I asked for, and received a plant from him in the autumn of 2003. I propagated and grew it, although I have lost plantlets many times.

How to grow *S.goetzeana*

For most of Japan, summers are very hot. It is an unsuitable environmental condition for the cultivation of this plant. The plant weakens because of the rapidly increasing temperatures in early summer; then it withers and dampens off gradually afterwards. If the lowest nighttime temperature is 71°F or less, the maximum daytime temperature tolerated is up to about 86°F. However, if the night temperature is above 73°F, then the daytime high temperature must be reduced. I made good use of the experience of the previous year's failure in 2005, when I grew it during the summer in the air-conditioned greenhouse at the range of 64°F to 73°F.



I confirm the flower bud for the first time. (17 Mar '06)



The initial scape - 1/5 inch. (8 April '06)

During the autumn to winter of 2005, the lowest greenhouse temperature was 61°F, with 30% shading in place. It has grown well when fertilized with a liquid fertilizer (6-8-8) every two weeks. However, the plant did not bloom.

At that time, I was convinced that the plant had to encounter a low temperature at certain periods to make bloom possible.

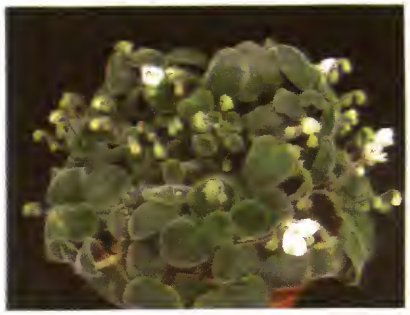
Development of the flower bud. (6 April '06)

The bud attaches by five per scape. (14 April '08)

Preferred humidity levels are similar to other African violets. I lowered the humidity to 30% in the daytime during the winter when growing at the lower temperature to induce flowering. I am thus able to prevent the plant from developing Botrytis Blight and crown rot.

The soil used with African violets needs to allow for adequate drainage. I used one with a small amount of dolomite limestone mixed with 30% sphagnum peat moss and 70% Pumice (pumice is a light, very porous volcanic rock).

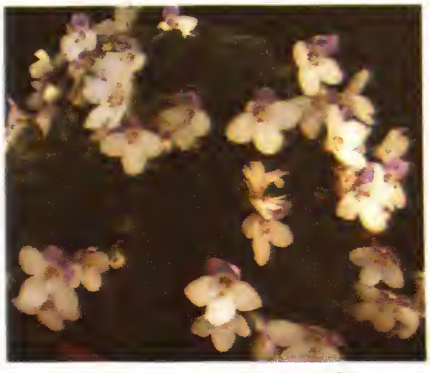
Continued bud development. (14 April ' 06)



Beginning bloom. (19 April '06)

With young plants, it doesn't matter if the pot is made of plastic, such as Solo cups. However, as the plants grow, I transplant them to shallow clay pots. To improve the drainage, I fill the bottom half of the pot with large pumice. The mature plant grows well in shallow containers. Spring is a good time to transplant, when the buds start growing.

I prefer top



In full-bloom, with about 60 flowers. (30 April '06)

watering. I give the plant plenty of water, until it is coming out of the bottom of the pot, once a week from spring to autumn, and every ten days in the winter. Generally, I do not give the plant water until the soil surface dries. When I transplant young plants, I use bottom watering.

On the First Flowering of *S.goetzeana*

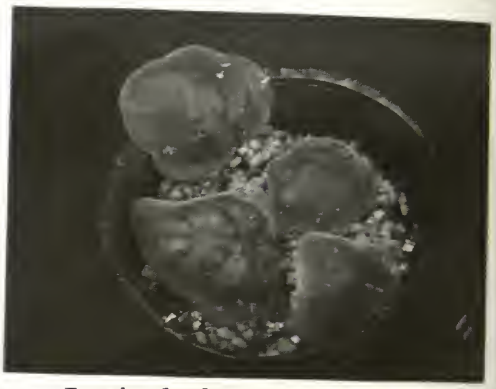
I changed my cultivation method during the winter of 2005 in consideration of previous reports of it having flowered in the spring. To mimic the environment of the natural habitat, first of all, I adjusted the lowest temperature to 50°F. Moreover, I did not fertilize from November to February. To compare, I grew in bright light with 30% shade. To lower the plant's temperature, I watered with cool water. This method is different from the cultivation of other African violets. But, the flowers bloomed when the plant was grown by this method.

On March 17, 2006, I found the plant's first bud. I believe that floral initiation might have been in the beginning of March. The flower stalk extended from a leaf axil, and it flowered for the first time on April 17th. After that, four more flower stalks extended and nine flowers blossomed, one after another, until May 6th. From then, it flowered sporadically, ending on June 25th. Consequently, eight flower stalks were generated and fourteen flowers bloomed. The day's lengthening affects the production of flower-buds. It seems that flowering is related to a low temperature during a certain period. The flowers don't last as long on other African violet species: seven days instead of ten. When the temperature rises after the middle of May, the flower's lifespan tends to shorten. Moreover, with the increased number of thrips, the flowering period might become even shorter.

Details of Flowering

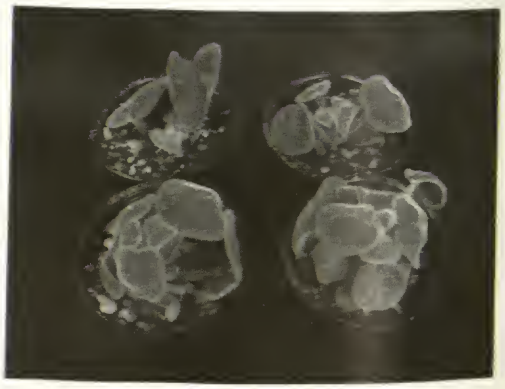
I recorded, in detail, the temperature of the flowering period, and the duration of the low temperature treatment needed to promote flowering in 2006 and 2007. The beginning of a flower stalk was confirmed seventy-five days after the low temperature treatment began. I can successfully produce a floral bud in West Japan in the first ten days of March, if the treatment begins in the early days of December. The temperature at this period is 45°F - 59°F. When the temperature is too high, the flower buds do not form readily. I think the ideal temperature for floral bud development is about 50°F. The leaves show signs of frostbite when the temperature drops to 35°F at night. The maximum daytime temperature is 77°F or less.

How fertilizer is given influences flowering. I used very little fertilizer in the first year. However, the plant often blooms when Hyponex High Grade (0-5-6) is given ten times, at ten day intervals. It might bloom for an extended period, producing more than 100 flowers. The floral bud of *S.goetzeana* grows from the leaf axil. To make a young plant flower, the suckers must be removed. Otherwise, suckers are encouraged, and after several years, you will have a large plant.



Rooting leaf cuttings in soil mix.

In 5-7 months.



Transplanting to 2.5 inch pot.

Propagation

I do leaf propagation from autumn to spring, planting them in a mixture of pumice and vermiculite, or New Zealand sphagnum moss. They produce small plantlets in about three months. I have also unsuccessfully tried propagation through pollination, but have had difficulties with the pollen.

References:

Dr. Jeff Smith. 1996. Growing the "Cool" Species. AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE.:22-23

Mrs.Jessie Crisafulli.1982. *Saintpaulia goetzeana* Duet Becomes A Trio. AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE.:37

Growing Violets Is Easy?

By Susan Gimblet

I have been very fortunate in my efforts to grow African violets. For years I had a wonderful growing area created from a garage turned solarium. The conditions of light, temperature, humidity, and air circulation seemed to all come together and allow me to grow prizewinning violets.

What a difference a move can make! I have been in my new home for two years and I am still experimenting, trying to get it right!

My growing conditions, particularly in the winter, are cooler. The violets grow on light stands in a finished walk-out basement. I no longer have the benefit of passive solar heat to assist in keeping the violets in a warmer environment. The room is fitted with three sections of electric baseboard. To avoid blowing the budget, I have tried to keep the temperature reasonable.

The lights are the same, one warm white and one cool white for each shelf, set for ten hours a day. The fertilizer routine is the same. Week 1: 20-20-20; week 2: Bounty and Sturdy, and week 3: plain water. The water is different. Previously, water saved from a dehumidifier was used. Now I use tap water, drawn and allowed to sit for a minimum of a week.

The first summer and winter, the plant stands were located against a long interior wall, near two of the baseboard heat sections. The violets seemed to do well, and I had several show quality plants for the spring show. After the show, I began to notice the variegated plants. The new growth had very little green. The new leaves were predominantly white! I moved the variegated plants from their regular location on the lower shelf up to the top shelf of the plant stands. Over the following months, the new growth on the variegated plants returned to 'normal.' Of course, now we were in the warmer summer months. During the second winter, the variegated plants remained on either the top or second shelf. There has not been a repeat of the loss of variegation. This summer the variegated plants are back on the lower shelves.

Last summer, I decided to rearrange the furniture in this plant room area. The two light stands were moved into an area approximately six feet by eight feet enclosed on three sides. One stand was still against an interior wall, but the second stand was against an exterior wall. There was one smaller baseboard heat unit. All seemed all right. The violets looked fine, and I left in February for a month. Toward the end of the month, I heard from the plant "waterer" that three violets had powdery mildew on the leaves. She isolated them until my return. In the weeks after I returned, I sprayed the violets with a Safer commercial product designed for mildew. Unfortunately, between the mildew and some damage from the fungicide, I had two plants suitable for the spring show!

I purchased a fan to circulate the air, culled out some plants, and checked the violets to be sure they were not getting too wet. I read a suggestion by Sue Gardner in the July/August 2008 issue of the AVM She suggested spraying the violets with a solution of two teaspoons of chlorine bleach to one pint of hot water. This spray seems to have worked.

My upcoming plans for the winter include:

1. Moving the light stands back to their previous location, closer to the larger baseboard heat units.
2. To spray the violets again with the bleach solution.
3. To maintain adequate air circulation with a fan, and by separating the violets as much as possible.
4. To place the variegated plants on upper shelves.
5. To increase the heat in the plant area by a few degrees.

I hope that this plan will get my violets back to prizewinning status.

From *'Ye Bay Stater,'*
publication of the Bay State AVS

AVSA DONATION FUND LEVELS

Thumbprint (Under $25)

Two-tone ($25-$49)

Multicolor ($50-$99)

Geneva ($100-$499)

Fantasy ($500-$999)

Chimera (Over $1000)

A Family Portrait

By Georgene Albrecht

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The blooms of this species have a sweet, floral fragrance in the afternoon when its pollinator is probably out and about. *Sinningia conspicua* (sin-NIN-jee-ah con-SPHIK-you-ah) was given to me as a cutting in 1998. This is the first time it has bloomed. Both it and a sister plant have produced lovely, soft yellow flowers this year. Perhaps the tuber finally became large enough at about two and a half inches in diameter. One plant was gown in a very rich soilless mix outside in a small, plastic greenhouse, and the other has been growing about four inches under two fluorescent plant bulbs in my light garden. Both have bloomed this summer. A small amount of Plant Success (fungi) granules were added to the soil mix.

A high phosphorous fertilizer, one with a high middle number, was given just twice during July, and they both bloomed by August and September. These two now have a permanent place in my collection just because of the fantastic fragrance. One plant went to the Ohio State African violet Show and won a blue ribbon. It did not like the cold morning temperature and got a little droopy, but the blooms were a heavy texture and very long-lasting. The plant grown indoors bloomed first, and the flowers lasted five weeks. The leaves cup downward as they mature. My plants are in four-inch pots and the leaf span is about twelve-inches in diameter.

Sinningia conspicua

OHIO STATE

There were some handsome gesneriads at the Ohio State African violet Show. Some of them will be featured in future columns. My tiny *Sinningia* 'Star Eyes' was Best Miniature Gesneriad. These tiny sweeties have always been my favorites. As the speaker for the banquet, slides of my thirty years of enjoying gesneriads entertained the members. Next year, you can be sure that this old girl is going to try entering many more plants, including *Saintpaulia.*

NEW REGISTER

The Gesneriad Society has published a new register of *Achimenes*. It is 68 pages plus a color cover of antique botanical illustrations. The cost is $8 and that includes postage.

Order from Gesneriad Society Publications, 1122 E. Pike Street, PBM 637, Seattle, WA 98122.

NATURAL NUTRITION

Our soil mix is very important in providing great nutrition to our plants. My basic Cornell mix always gets at least two tablespoons of blood meal or dried blood to six gallons of mix. Several speakers told us how important nitrogen is to growing a really healthy, green plant. Right they are. A plant must have healthy leaves to produce great bloom and have a wonderful root system The color of the leaf always tells you how healthy the plant is. When lower leaves turn yellow, the plant is sacrificing them to produce new growth.

SAVING LIGHT

One of the things I learned at the convention was the fact that larger foliage is grown in less light. This is true; for proof look at the huge tropical leaves that grow under the top canopy of the forests. Save on your electric bill; cut your lights down to nine or ten hours a day. Boost them up an hour of two if you are going for show in twelve weeks.

One of my plant stands has no timer and the lights are one all the time. Plants are tight centered, bleached, and the soil dries out too quickly. Timers are a must. Here is another great tip from Pat Hancock. There will be no mildew if you run lights at night instead of day. The extra heat from the lights raises the night temperature and prevents mildew.

Registration Report

By Joe Bruns

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A name reservation costs $1.00 ($5.00 for non-members) for each plant, and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00 ($5.00 for non-members). Registration of the plant is $5.00 ($25.00 for non-members) unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is $4.00 ($20.00 for non-members).

Stanley Ko – Shatin, Hong Kong, China

'Ko's Curiosity' (10000) 08/28/2008 (S. Ko) Semidouble chimera white frilled pansy/pink stripe. Dark green, quilted, scalloped. **Small standard**

'Ko's Innovation' (10001) 08/28/2008 (S. Ko) Single chimera fuchsia-pink frilled star/white stripe, variable light green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, wavy. **Standard**

'Ko's Melody of Blossoms' (10002) 08/28/2008 (S. Ko) Semidouble chimera white ruffled star/red stripe. **Variegated** medium green and white, wavy. **Standard**

'Ko's Midnight Sun' (10003) 08/28/2008 (S. Ko) Single chimera lavender pansy/blue-purple stripe. Dark green, plain, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

'Ko's Misty Moon' (10004) 08/28/2008 (S. Ko) Single chimera medium purple sticktite star/white and variable yellow stripe. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

'Ko's Nonstop Interface' (10005) 08/28/2008 (S. Ko) Single chimera white sticktite frilled pansy/medium blue stripe, variable light green edge. Medium green, heart-shaped, glossy, hairy, wavy, scalloped. **Large**

'Ko's Purple Haze' (10006) 08/28/2008 (S. Ko) Single chimera light blue star/dark blue stripe. Dark green, pointed, serrated/red back. **Standard**

'Ko's Wonderful Dawn' (10007) 08/28/2008 (S. Ko) Single chimera white and variable yellow sticktite star/medium purple stripe. Medium green, quilted. **Standard**

*****

Joseph Cheung – Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, China

'JC's Friendship' (10008) 08/28/2008 (J. Cheung) Single-semidouble chimera white wasp/wine stripe. Medium green, longifolia. **Standard**

*****

Kay Darrow – Brooklyn, MI

'Kbugs Irish Ribbons' (10009) 09/26/2008 (K. Darrow) Single chimera white wavy large star/red stripe. Medium green, plain. **Large**

11th Luncheon Auction

Our eleventh annual luncheon auction will take place on Thursday, April 15, in Reno, NV. To make this auction a success, we need the help of our members, affiliates, hybridizers, and commercials. As you all know, monies raised are used to benefit all of AVSA. Your help and your donations are an integral part of the success of the auction.

I hope you'll consider donating a violet-related item or craft to the auction. Hybridizers and commercial members, your donations of supplies or newly introduced plants or cuttings would be very much appreciated. They are always a wildly popular bidding item.

As always, your help will insure the success of this auction. All donations and contributors will be listed and acknowledged at the auction itself and thanks again extended in the AVM. Remember, you must attend the luncheon in order to attend the auction. Won't you join us?

Please let me know if you will be donating any items. A description of the item should be included with your notice. You can reach me by mail at: Edna Rourke, 99 Old Stratford Road, Shelton, CT 06484-6129, by phone at (203) 926-9716, or by email @Apapillon@aol.com.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and hope to see you in Reno!

Fertilizer

By Nancy Carr

The next major topic in our series on African violet culture is fertilizer. African violets have been taken out of their natural habitat and grown in containers all over the world. In order to culture the plant – let it grow and bloom, those of us who culture them must have some understanding of what African violets need.

All plants require specific chemicals – nutrients to grow. All plants get their nutrients from the soil, air, and water. It is well documented that plants need 17 nutrients. Three are freely available, three are macronutrients which are needed in large amounts, three are essential secondary nutrients needed in moderate amounts, and 8 are micronutrients needed in very small amounts. Table 1-Plant Nutrients lists all these nutrients, Chemical symbol, and what it's used for in the plant metabolism. These nutrients have been combined into products called fertilizer.

Fertilizers can be organic or inorganic. The organic fertilizers basically recycle nutrients-whatever was in the living organism that was used to derive the organic fertilizer, will be available, with the proper conditions, to the plant. Organic fertilizers tend to be rather odoriferous.

Carbon, Hydrogen, and Oxygen are freely available in the air and water. Inorganic fertilizer formulations are not prepared to include them specifically. These three elements may be combined with other elements to form mineral salts.

Inorganic fertilizers contain mineral salts of the other fourteen nutrients and come in several forms: dry granules, spikes, or tablets. These are generally time-release forms. It is easy to over-fertilize with the time-release form because the release of nutrients is often influenced by environmental factors and the amount released is unpredictable. Fertilizers also come as liquids or soluble powders which are meant to be mixed with water. It is inorganic water soluble fertilizers that we are discussing in this article. This form of fertilizer is generally recommended for use with African violets.

So how do I know which fertilizer to use? Referring to Pauline Bartholomew's book, *Growing to Show*, the section on fertilizing lists the nutrients required by an African violet which is the same as the list with this article. So, armed with the list, go to the garden store and read labels.

Fertilizer labels are required by law to aid the consumer in choosing a fertilizer product. Manufacturers are required to list the guaranteed analysis and the materials used in making the fertilizer ("derived from' section).

Every fertilizer label will have 3 numbers indicating the relative percentages of the 3 key nutrients: Nitrogen (N) Phosphorous (P), and Potassium (K), always in this order. So a fertilizer that has 20-20-20 on the label usually on the front, will have 20% N, 20%P, and 20%K. This is also called a "balanced fertilizer," meaning it has equal percentages of the Macronutrients N-P-K. The secondary nutrients and trace elements are not included in the percentages. According to Bartholomew's book, you want the percentages to add up to at least 60%. That means that most of the fertilizer formulation will be useful to the plant.

Turning the fertilizer container around, you will find the guaranteed analysis in a table form on the side or back of the container. Here, the total Nitrogen content, listed first, is broken down to include the different forms of Nitrogen in the fertilizer. Ammoniacal N and nitrate N are the two desirable forms of Nitrogen needed for African violets. Actually, the ammoniacal form is converted to the nitrate form when dissolved in water.

The presence of urea N in the fertilizer is undesirable for African violets. Urea is a ubiquitous, cheap form of N, but to be useful to a plant, it must be further broken down by soil microbes to the usable nitrate form. These microbes are found outdoors. In containerized culture, sterile soilless mix is used. So, the N in urea is not available to your violets and just sits there. After a few months, you will begin to notice orange crystallization around the rim of your pot-that is the urea. It also causes root burn in African violets. You will need to frequently flush out the urea (although other nutrients are flushed out, too) with plain water and repot more frequently. You may also need to increase the amount of fertilizer you use to make more of the ammoniacal and nitrate N available. However, this also adds more urea. It's a vicious cycle. So it is best to avoid fertilizers with urea N.

Phosphorous and Potassium are listed next on the guaranteed analysis table. Then comes a long list of the other elements – secondary nutrients and trace elements from Table 1, which add up to around 1%. All these percentages don't add up to 100. The difference is filler material which may be a chemical that keeps the fertilizer from clumping in the package and other things which may or may not be useful to the plant.

The fertilizer label then lists the sources of the nutrients. This is the "derived from" section. The sources of the nutrients are the mineral salts actually used in formulating the fertilizer.

Table 1: Plant Nutrition: 17 elements required for healthy growth.

By Nancy Carr

Nutrient	Chemical Symbol	Used for
		Free Elements
Carbon	C	Most of what the plant is made of, including cellulose carbohydrates.
Hydrogen	H	Necessary for building sugars with Carbon.
Oxygen	O	Necessary for cellular respiration and building. sugars
		Macro Nutrients
Nitrogen	N	Major component of proteins, chlorophyll, amino acids. Promotes green leafy growth.
Phosphorous	P	Encourages flowering and root growth. Necessary for protein formation, photosynthesis, converting light into chemical energy.
Potassium	K	Necessary for formation of sugars, carbohydrates, cell division, and helps with the water balance in the plant. Necessary for stem strength stress tolerance.
		Secondary Nutrients
Calcium	Ca	Activates enzymes, and is a structural component of the cell walls.
Magnesium	Mg	Structural component of chlorophyll and is required for the proper functioning of plant enzymes.
Sulfur	S	Structural component of amino acids and is required in the production of chlorophyll.
		Micro Nutrients (aka trace elements)
Iron	Fe	Necessary for enzyme functions and a catalyst in the synthesis of chlorophyll. Essential for the young growing parts of plants.
Boron	B	Necessary for cell wall formation, membrane integrity, calcium uptake, flowering, fruiting, cell division.
Zinc	Zn	A component of enzymes, a cofactor of auxins (plant growth hormones).
Copper	Cu	Concentrated in roots, important in nitrogen metabolism.
Molybdenum	Mo	Structural component of the enzyme that reduces nitrates to ammonia.
Chlorine	Cl	Involved in osmosis-movement of water in cells.
Manganese	Mn	Required in the enzyme activity for photosynthesis, respiration, and nitrogen metabolism.
Sodium	Na	Involved in osmosis.

Question Box

By Ralph Robinson

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As I write this, winter is about a month away, and for most of you, it's arrived by the time of publication. With tight budgets, the high cost of heating is a concern more than ever. The good news is that violets, and most other gesneriads (with the obvious exception of episcias) won't mind a bit of coolness. Actually, they'll tolerate it better than you might. Keep in mind that most of the gesneriads that we grow aren't really tropical, actually subtropical, and many are native to high elevations or areas where a bit of coolness is not uncommon. For most, so long as your nighttime temperature stays above 60f degrees (some won't mind it a bit cooler) they'll be quite content. So, throw on your wool socks and sweater, turn down the thermostat, and wait until spring!

As is always the case, we are far too busy to reply to mail (or e-mail), though we do read all of it. Should you want a personal reply, we are more than willing to answer phone calls made during our normal business hours (12-5 pm EST), since we can work and talk at the same time. For those with access to the internet, we can be reached at robsvioletaol.com or via our web-site at www.violetbarn.com. The web-site also contains a wealth of information (and answers to many of your questions).

Question: I bought four African violet plants (Home Depot) which developed flying insect, looks like fruit flies, that infested the plants. I place the plants into tepid water for a half-hour once a week and placed them next to each other for more humidity, under a sunny window. Would you know the cause of these insects and how to eliminate them?

Answer: Your guess is likely correct. I suspect that they are fungus gnats (i.e. fruit flies). They are relatively harmless, unless present in very large numbers. Mostly, they're an unsightly nuisance. Rather than using any insecticide, try letting the soil surface of your plants go dry between watering (don't let them wilt). Damp, humid, conditions are what they need to thrive, and they lay their eggs on wet soil surfaces. You'll find that most or all of them will disappear if you just let things "dry out" a bit. If you do want to spray, I'd suggest using something mild and nontoxic, like "Neem" oil. This will control the gnats, is easy to use, and won't harm you or your family.

Question: I have an old African violet that was my mother in-law's and it blooms constantly. I have noticed on the top of all the leaves, white fuzzy specks that looks like dandruff. I do not know what it is and how I should treat the violet, and the flowers have some kind of tiny bugs on them. What do I do? I love this plant. It looks healthy except for the dandruff looking stuff.

Answer: Your African violet likely has one, perhaps two, problems. The tiny bugs that you see on the flowers are likely thrips which, unfortunately, aren't all that uncommon on blooming houseplants like violets. Though they can be found also in the foliage or on the soil surface, thrips prefer the flowers of your violet, since the pollen is their most desired feeding spot. The stuff that looks like dandruff on the tops of the leaves could be one of a number of things. If it "wriggles," it may be immature thrips that have fallen from the flowers. It's also possible that it may just be loose pollen spilled from opened pollen sacs (thrips can be messy eaters). If a bit larger, more white than yellow, soft, and slow, or immobile, than it may be mealybug (or their eggs). If it's the latter, you'll likely find evidence underneath the leaves, along the stem, in the soil, or on nearby plants (that are "dropping" the eggs onto your violet). Inspect the plant and it's root ball-if you don't see any soft, white, masses, it's likely not mealybugs or their eggs that you're seeing on the leaves.

If you have only this one violet, or only a small collection of plants, I wouldn't recommend using any chemicals to try to eliminate the problem. The few insecticides that are truly effective are very expensive ($100 or more) and, to varying degrees, toxic. Using chemicals is only advantageous for larger collections where the cost and risks of using them outweigh the value of the potential lost plants. This is the strategy we recommend for growers like yourself. First, remove as much of the infected plant material as possible. In the case of thrips, this means removing all of the open flowers and unopened buds. This, alone, will eliminate most of your thrips. Next, wash the plant. Using a mild dish soap, make a "lather" with your fingers and gently wipe as much of the plant as you can. Rinse using room temperature water. Finally, repot the plant. Keep only the younger growth (newest 4-6 leaves) and remove most (say 2/3) of the old soil and roots, on the chance that there are eggs/larvae in either.

At this point, put the plant(s) in an area away from others that you know are problem-free. Keep a close eye on it, especially on the first blooms that appear. Remove them if you even suspect that there may be thrips. Continue to do this until you are certain they haven't reappeared. With a small collection, it should be possible to eliminate your thrips problem this way.

If you have mealybug, the best solution is to discard the plant. These are very stubborn pests that can do a great deal of damage over time to your plant collection and can be difficult to get rid of. Since this is your Grandmother's plant, you'll likely want to save it. Follow the same process as above but, instead of merely repotting, actually "de-crown" the plant by removing all the roots and soil (which are likely to harbor eggs). Then re-root the (washed) crown. Fill a small pot with damp (not soggy) soil, then firmly press the crown into it, so that it won't easily come loose or "pop out." Put the plant and pot into a clear, plastic baggie and place in a bright (not hot) location. In about 4 to 6 weeks, it will have produced new roots and can be removed from the baggie. Again, keep a close eye on the plant, and inspect it regularly for a recurrence of problems.

Question: I bought eight or ten of the mini violets. I have always had African violets and they have always done well in my kitchen window. None of my mini violets ever flowered. I guess the care of minis must be quite different from my other plants. Help?

Answer: In most respects, care for miniature and "standard" sized varieties is the same. One difference is that most mini violets, as a general rule, prefer a bit more light than do standards to bloom well. It's possible that the light in your kitchen window was sufficient for your standards, but not for your minis. Also, since they're so small, minis are often "hidden" behind or beneath the larger plants when sharing the same space, which makes the problem worse, since they'll then receive even less light.

Question: I recently ordered six violets. One of them has died, I think, and I'm not sure what I did. I transplanted it when it arrived – maybe too soon? One day I noticed the whole plant had fallen out of the pot, so I put it back in, but perhaps the roots died, or I'm not sure what. Any suggestions? The rest seem to be doing OK.

Answer: The plant you're referring to was younger than the others we shipped you. It's best not to repot the standards into larger (4-inch) pots until their root system is more developed, and has begun to fill their current pot – a good rule for "potting up" any plant. It sounds as if the roots of your plant had rotted, at which point the top of the plant became detached. This means one or more of the following: too large a pot, too heavy a soil, and/or too much water. Use a light, porous, soilless (no topsoil) mix, containing plenty of perlite and vermiculite. The wetter you keep the soil, the more perlite the mix should contain. After repotting, especially into a larger pot, water more lightly than usual. You may have put the plant into a 4 inch pot, but it still has only a 2 or 3" root system.

As for your plant, rip off all of the rotten foliage and roots, and re-root the crown. See the first question above on how to do this. It may well recover.

Question: I have a problem with an item that was part of my recent order, 'Titanic'. I noticed a purplish blotch on two of the leaves. They appear fixed in size and do not spread across the leaf as it grows. However, as the plant grows, I am noting blotched areas on budding leaves as well. More worrisome, I now note a similar purplish blotch on one leaf of a 'Kiwi Dazzler' which was part of the same order. The leaves do not die or dry in the area of the blotch, but remain firm and otherwise normal. My concern is that these blotches might be caused by a virus or some other disease. Do I have a reason to be concerned?

Answer: No. What you are seeing, for lack of a better term, are "birthmarks." Both of these varieties, especially 'Titanic', frequently produce the blotches that you are seeing. This is true of many other chimeras or multicolor bloom varieties. The same genetic instability that is producing such intensely-colored blooms is producing the coloring you see in the leaves. In fact, we consider such blotching a good thing – usually those plants showing some blotching have the most colorful blooms.

Question: I'm excited about my new plants. I found a bunch of vintage beakers and glass pieces and would like to plant my assortment into these. What would be the proper way of caring for them in this way? Would I layer a foundation of tiny gravel and mix in potting soil for each? I'm concerned about the glass, I've never planted something inside a container without a drain before.

Answer: You seem to have the right idea. Just like potting into a plastic pot, use a container appropriate for the plant – not much larger than the root system. I'd suggest using a soil mix with plenty of perlite, or other relatively nonabsorbent material. Using a layer of gravel, or the like, in the bottom of the container is also a good idea. If the glass is clear, or nearly so, this will have the advantage of letting you see exactly how wet the soil is and whether there is excess water collected in the bottom of the container. This also means that light will make its way into the soil and gravel, possibly making unsightly algae a problem. If you can find it, using a coarse charcoal in your soil and/or for your bottom drainage layer, might be advantageous. In any event, there's no reason you can't successfully grow your violets in these containers. You'll just need to be more careful in your watering.

Suspended, Kinetic, or Mobile Designs? What's the Difference?

By Claire J. Schirtzer

"Help! Our design schedule calls for an arrangement with movement! What shall I do?"

I am certain that each designer poses a version of this question, either verbally or mentally, when they read a show schedule that includes such a class. The real questions, however, should be:

"What is the schedule truly asking for? What particular type of design is required?"

Designs where either actual movement or implied movement is dominant are classified as kinetic arrangements. Kinetic means: "pertaining to motion" or "caused by motion" or "characterized by movement." All are general descriptions for such a category. Within that category, however, are subdivisions that are more specific and define different types of kinetic designs.

According to the most recent edition of the AVSA Judges' Handbook, they are: *"mobile, stabile, and sta-mobile"* (page 68). Each of these types requires different techniques and components. Alternating among one of these different specific types of arrangements can add variety to a show schedule from year to year and offer designers a chance to be truly creative.

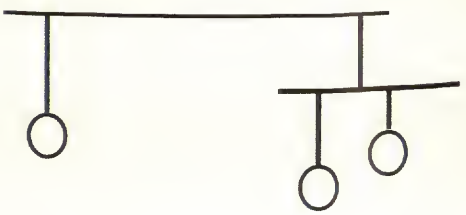
But what happened to that old familiar suspended arrangement? Isn't that a mobile or at least a kinetic design? Not surprisingly, the hanging or suspended plant or flower design is probably the most familiar and most often used "kinetic" arrangement in a show schedule. Yet, according to the handbook, this type of arrangement is *"suspended in air, either from a dowel or a bracket on the back of the niche or from an eye screw if a frame is used, which may or may not have motion. If the arrangement is to have motion, it will be viewed from all sides. The schedule should state whether the design is to be stationary, moving, or exhibitor's choice."* (page 68). As you can see, the suspended arrangement may be kinetic, but it does not have to be. For that reason, it is not listed as one of the kinetic types.

Unfortunately, I think that when we read the word "suspended" our natural tendency is to associate that design with movement. Depending on how the schedule is worded, however, that may or may not be accurate and can mean the difference between conforming to the schedule or not. Furthermore, when we read the word "mobile" we naturally associate that with any movement rather than its technical (and more difficult) description. Therein lay the confusion and the pitfalls.

A mobile kinetic arrangement is "a suspended arrangement which has asymmetrically balanced parts capable of moving independently. The entire design is free to rotate with movement induced by air currents." (Page 68)

By its very description, this type of kinetic design is a challenge. To balance all the parts asymmetrically so that each can move independently and freely and yet create an overall pleasing and balanced design requires considerable skill, planning, and execution that can test the patience, time, and talent of any designer.

When I tried my first mobile, I went from arguing with myself about why I was wasting time trying to do the impossible, voicing a few choice words here or there about my lack of success (thank goodness no one could hear me) and trying to recall all the physics I studied in high school and college about balance, counterbalances, fulcrums, weights, and lengths etc. Bottom line, it all came down to trial and error over plenty of time. The weight I had on end of the wire or rod I needed to counterbalance with two or three lesser weights attached to the other end. The length of the wire or rod on one side determined the weight of the next set of hangings. The more intricate the mobile the more challenging and more interesting it became. In the end, I must admit that despite endless hair-pulling nights, the finished mobile is a great feeling of success!



Very simple line drawing of a mobile, but you get the point!

So, read your design section of the schedule carefully. Don't assume you know what a specific word description means. Ask questions about anything that is uncertain. Encourage those who write the schedule to incorporate interesting and unusual classes. Above all, seek the challenges and enjoy the experiences, especially of kinetic designs.

From the *Empire Violet Magazine*, publication of the New York State AVS

AVSA Affiliates

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BENEFITS GALORE WHEN HELPING OTHERS

A quote from Robert Frost "The World is filled with willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them." How often do we see this tendency displayed? The ideal would be to have everyone involved in the various activities hosted by our affiliates. How can we better achieve this goal? Give a thought to the various events each affiliate participates in.

Do you have a show/sale every year? The beautiful African violets & Gesneriads grown by your membership and the designs they have created certainly are a wonderful sight to behold and enjoy by your members as well as the public. A part of every show is the information you hand out to instruct the public how to grow African violets. Even your newest member would be able to use a stamp to add your club's name and contact number to the culture folders. A guest book for all visitors to supply their names and addresses or e-mails is really important to have for any function your affiliate hosts. A new member or a member with limited mobility is able to request visitors sign up for notices of future activities sponsored by your group. Not only do those visitors become possible new members, but they also buy supplies and show or sales plants.

Some affiliates feel they are too small or inexperienced to host an AVSA judged or non-judged show in their area. Consider a display and sale. This project demands a space for your plants. Local merchants, Chambers of Commerce, libraries, police stations, garden centers, botanical gardens, etc. might be willing to allow you to hold this event. If sales are involved, the affiliate might have to pay a percentage to their host. This is another activity that can involve your entire membership. Every visitor is a potential new member.

Your affiliate could host a "Bring Us Your Problem A.V's." The more experienced members could pitch in with their expertise and demonstrate how to repot, or give suggestions on plant care, while the newer members could help with the setting up, manning the guest book, and distributing meeting information for your affiliate. This is a "hands-on" experience that serves as an education for everyone as to how extremely resilient our African violets are.

Are their some people in your affiliate struggling with culture problems? Consider having a knowledgeable member go to their aid. Perhaps a buddy system teaming an experienced member with the novice member would help in retaining our newer members. Sooner or later, we all lose members and our effort must involve retaining those we can. Does your affiliate have a contact chairman who will telephone members to remind them of meetings and events? This contact chairman is a valuable source of information.

Field trips to the county agricultural station can help educate your members about pest control, water quality, soil mixes, etc. Members opening their homes to their group often give us an education about how they grow, water, use plant stands, lighting, fertilizer, pest control, etc.

Is there an AVSA council in your state? Volunteer your help or go as a group and help. 'Hands on' help has been proven to be the best learning activity.

We are in contact with so many people in our daily lives such as the dentist, coffee shop, pediatrician, and many others. Consider giving a plant, and in return, leaving flyers announcing your affiliate's meeting times and place and a contact number.

Let me know what your affiliate activities are. Did you know that AVSA will list shows, displays, programs, and other events on the AVSA website? Just send me the information and I will be happy to post it to the website or you may send it to the AVSA office and they will forward your information.

As always, let me know of what your affiliate does to increase membership and keep the members it already has. Our main effort is to educate and share information about the beautiful African violet.

AVSA OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck

17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from June 30, 2008 - July 31, 2008

Two-tone

Armand Arata, Leonia, NJ
In memory of Gregory Tatarian

Thumbprint

Leslie Cox, Newbury Park, CA

Jane Davidsaver, Winnemucca, NV
Louis DelFavero, Tampa, FL
Linda Garramone, Bay Shore, NY
Sandra Y Kellum, Beaufort, NC

Marvin K Nester, Lakeland, FL
Kathryn Tedford, Manlius, NY

Total: $82.50

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck

17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from August 1, 2008 - September 30, 2008

Two-tone

Jeri Anderson, Tucson, AZ
Heart of Missouri African Violet Council, Columbia, MO
In memory of our President and friend Catherine Ross

Thumbprint

Joel Scott Bershof, Lakewood, CO
Doreen Cesari, Lancaster, NY

Natalie Dann, Laurel, MD
Millie Dellarco, Crossville, IN
Susan J. Fraley, Albany, NY
Carlene Keim, Syracuse, NY

North Star African Violet Council, Minneapolis, MN
Caroline Storey, San Marcos, TX
Sweet Water African Violet Society, East Islip, NY

Total: $146.00

AVSA BOOSTER FUND

Shirley Berger • 2822 So. Mainsail Dr. • Avon Park, FL 33825-6032

Contributions: July 16, 2008 – September 15, 2008

Geneva

Ellen E Bloomfield, Round Lake, IL
First Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL
For Website Upgrade
Dr. William E. H. Price, Vancouver, BC, CANADA

Multicolored

Martha Menard, Murphysboro, IL

Two-tone

Armand Arata, Leonia, NJ
In memory of Gerald McGann
Golf-Edison AV Club, Fort Myers Beach, FL
For Website Upgrade
Cheryl and Aron Johnston, Arlington, TX
In memory of Rodney Fergon, husband of Peggy Fergon
Yesterday Once More, Morton, IL
For Website Upgrade

Thumbprint

Galen Beach, Leslie, MO
Sandra Campbell, Buena Vista, CO
Central Jersey AVS, Milltown, NJ
Doreen Cesari, Lancaster, NY
Leslie J. Choitz, South Bend, IN
Millie Dellarco, Crossville, TN
Susan J. Fraley, Albany, NY
Joan Franzen, Broken Arrow, OK

Linda Garramone, Bay Shore, NY
Long Island AVS, NY
Joanna Mellert, Ellicott City, MD
Mid-America AVS, Independence, MO
Julie Murphy, Milwaukee, WI
Marvin K. Nester, Lakeland, FL
Lola Sutherland, Prather, CA
Sweetwater AVS, East Islip, NY

Website Improvement Fund: $190.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: $937.70

Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund

Janet Riemer - 256 Pennington-Harbourton Rd. • Pennington, NJ 08534

April 22 – June 21, 2008

Geneva

Billings Bloomers (MT)
Pittsburgh African Violet Society
Ohio State African Violet Society
In memory of Sharon Holtzman, Jonathan Ford & Jamie Christensen

Multicolor

Sweet Water African Violet Society
In memory of Jean Pappas
San Fernando Valley AVS

Two-tone

Sue Ramser
In memory of Jenny Daugereau's father and mother-in-law
Jeri Anderson

Thumbprint

Harriet K. Morgan
New York State African Violet Judges Council
Joel Bershof
Desert Sun African Violet Society
North Texas African Violet Judges Council
In memory of Ruth Wheeler
North Texas African Violet Judges Council
In memory of Mural Fort

Total this period - $ 666.00

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Susan Hapner - *Chairman* • 35 Ridge Point Dr. • Chesterfield, MO 63017

1 August 2008 to 30 September 2008

Thumbprint Level

AVC of Morris County/NJ
David B. Tooker

Doreen Cesari
Billy Oates
Sandra Campbell
Millie Dellarco
Susan Fraley
Deborah Hoover

Reginald N. Arrington
North Star AVC/ MN
Moonlight AVS
In memory of Mural Fort, Charter Member
Sweetwater AVS/NY

TOTAL $164.00

Due to the AVSA office being closed during the hurricane, a complete listing will be in the next magazine.

GROWING VIOLETS IN THE OFFICE SETTING: CHAPTER II

By Mary W. Bridgman

Growing violets in the office setting can be challenging, but also very rewarding. My decision to try it resulted from a violet plant given to me by a colleague at work. I had already tried growing violets at home with little success. I had two cats that were fond of plants (for snacking and shredding), and I didn't think it would survive if I took it home. Also, I thought, I spent most of my waking hours at work anyway. I would have a better opportunity to enjoy the plant if I left it at work. As I accumulated more plants, I really began to enjoy sharing their beauty and my enthusiasm for African violets with my co-workers.

Space limitations present one of the most common problems for office violet growers. If you occupy a small cubicle, as many workers do, you might want to consider minis or semi-minis. If you aren't near a window, try placing the violets on top of any furniture that is close to the office lighting. I have a few bins over my credenza and two armoires that are positioned directly beneath fluorescent lighting tubes. They also get plenty of ambient light from the windows. These surfaces are about six feet above the floor and three feet beneath the ceiling. The violets I place there are visible to workers outside my cube, so I always try to keep the prettiest blooming minis near the outer perimeter of the armoires.

If you have quite a few plants, you will quickly realize that transporting water to your workspace can be a time-consuming and muscle-building affair. I save one and a half liter water bottles, which are easy to handle when watering, and borrow the office cart to take them (quite a way) down the hall for refills when I have accumulated a few "empties". I try to complete this chore late in the day or after hours when there is not much traffic around the coffee pot next to the sink.

Spraying for pests can be a problem if others are working near you. Of course, you shouldn't spray when others are present and could be bothered by the fumes. Again, this task is best completed after hours when no one else is around and the fumes can disperse. Your employer may prohibit the use of pesticides in the workplace, and understandably so. I have an ongoing problem with thrips, and have only been successful with eradication when I follow the advice of one of our club's senior members. She recommended putting the plants in a box, spraying them, and then sealing them overnight in a large plastic bag. However, because I grow primarily for my own pleasure, I hesitate to disbud the flowers, which is

required for successful treatment of thrips. They are difficult to see except on close inspection and don't detract from my enjoyment of the plants. So, I usually put off this chore until prepping for our local show, when I would have to disbud any plants I hope to show anyway. Of course, you should never risk contaminating anyone else's plants with your own pests.

Most violets will need periodic repotting to stay "healthy", although every now and then I am amazed by people who have success for years at a time without repotting. Repotting may be one task you have to complete at home, and I sometimes transport eight or more home in a large banker's box (with handles on either side) in order to repot. A banker's box will hold about eight standard plants, but a standard size copy paper box will hold four or more. When I have a large number to repot, I usually take them home. Otherwise, I spread a large plastic bag on my desk and don single use latex gloves. The gloves are useful because my desk isn't near a water source and I can't easily wash my hands during the process. It also helps to have a large pan (I use a disposable aluminum turkey roasting pan) to catch the majority of the soil when you remove the plant from its original pot. I actually use latex gloves even when I repot at home. They are very inexpensive, readily available (even at the grocery store) and make clean up a lot simpler.

I keep a few tools in a pencil holder at work – scissors for cutting wicks, a plastic spoon for getting potting soil into small spaces, and a cosmetic brush for brushing soil and dust off of leaves. I also keep a "sucker plucker", a small tool with a sharp hook on one end for, you guessed it, removing suckers. The other end of the tool has a small blade that I use for gently scraping the "trunk" of the plant when I "pot down". By the way, if you would like one of these handy tools, your local crafts store will probably have one stocked near the polymer clay.

I pot my standard violets in ceramic reservoir pots in order to avoid problems with unsightly algae growth in the translucent containers we use as reservoirs for wicked watering. It seems that no matter what I do, most types of translucent reservoirs will eventually grow algae. This, of course, is not harmful to the plant. Our club uses small plastic cubes to make reservoirs for minis, and I have noticed that the more darkly tinted ones are less likely to grow algae. They also look pretty and colorful with light shining through them. Personally, I find ceramic violet pots more attractive than other types. I have found them at a reasonable price at my local Wal-Mart.

You might be surprised at the interest your workplace violets will generate. I have gotten several colleagues interested in our local violet club (The Heart of Jacksonville African Violet Society). I have given the plants as retirement gifts, suggesting that retirees might be looking for a new hobby once they are no longer working and have more free time. I also include an issue or two of the AVSA Magazine and a "beginner's kit" with fertilizer and a few basic supplies.

Several years ago, I got a little carried away with a fantastic (I thought) idea for an African violet award, which I suggested that we present monthly to an employee who, like a violet plant, makes the environment a nicer place to work. I could envision a violet on every desk! I offered to donate all of the plants. The idea was vetoed by a few of my male colleagues. Oh, well.....so much for that!

One thing is for sure, a violet in your office will bring beauty and at least a small measure of relief from the pressures of the work day. I can't imagine my own office without my leafy friends. Happy growing!

Membership Application

Application for Membership Recommended by _____ **Mem. #** _____
The African Violet Society of America, Inc.
2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702 **www.avsa.org** **Date** _____
Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET Magazine.

- ☐ Individual Membership USA ($30.00)
- ☐ Associate Member USA ($15.00-no magazine) (Must reside at same address as a person having any other Class of membership)
- ☐ International Individual, Canada ($35.00)
- ☐ International Associate, Canada ($17.50)
- ☐ International Individual, other than Canada ($40.00)
- ☐ International Associate, other than Canada ($20.00)
- ☐ Commercial USA ($60.00)
- ☐ Commercial Canada ($65.00)
- ☐ Commercial International, other than Canada ($70.00)
- ☐ Affiliate Chapter, including local, state, regional, and Judge's councils, USA ($35.00)
- ☐ Affiliate Chapter, Canada ($40.00)
- ☐ Affiliate Chapter International, other than Canada ($45.00)
- ☐ Library ($30.00)
- ☐ Life Member USA ($600)
- ☐ Life Member International ($750.00)

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Mem. # _____

(Please type or print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Make checks payable to AVSA, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS: please remit in **US$** with a draft or check on a USA bank. International Postal money orders accepted. **Dues are not refundable.**

VISA / MC accepted Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Security Code _____ Signature _____

E-mail Address _____

Planting by Moon Signs

All tables use Eastern Time. Please calculate the difference between your time zone and Eastern.

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign; used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

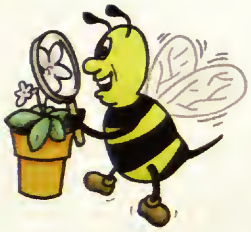
January Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase	
1 Thu	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st	
2 Fri	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st	
3 Sat 4:50 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	
4 Sun	Aries	Fire	Barren	2nd	6:56 am
5 Mon 10:46 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd	
6 Tue	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd	
7 Wed 1:11 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd	
8 Thu	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd	
9 Fri 1:14 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
10 Sat	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	3rd	10:27 pm
11 Sun 12:41 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd	
12 Mon	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd	
13 Tue 1:33 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd	
14 Wed	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd	
15 Thu 5:30 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
16 Fri	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
17 Sat	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	4th	9:46 pm
18 Sun 1:20 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th	
19 Mon	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	4th	
20 Tue 12:30 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th	
21 Wed	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th	
22 Thu	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th	
23 Fri 1:18 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
24 Sat	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
25 Sun 1:56 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
26 Mon	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st	2:55 am
27 Tue	Aquarius	Air	Barren	1st	
28 Wed 1:12 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st	
29 Thu	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st	
30 Fri 10:25 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	
31 Sat	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	

February Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase	
1 Sun 5:08 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
2 Mon	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	2nd	6:13 pm
3 Tue 9:14 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd	
4 Wed	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd	
5 Thu 11:05 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
6 Fri	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
7 Sat 11:43 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
8 Sun	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
9 Mon	Leo	Fire	Barren	3rd	9:49 am
10 Tue 12:38 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd	
11 Wed	Virgo	Earth	Barren	3rd	
12 Thu 3:33 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
13 Fri	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
14 Sat 9:50 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
15 Sun	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
16 Mon 7:55 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th	4:37 pm
17 Tue	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th	
18 Wed	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th	
19 Thu 8:25 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
20 Fri	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
21 Sat 9:06 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
22 Sun	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
23 Mon	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
24 Tue 7:59 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st	8:55 pm
25 Wed	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	1st	
26 Thu 4:24 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	
27 Fri	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	
28 Sat 10:33 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	

Reprinted with permission from Llewellyn's 2009 Moon Sign Book, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0124-6



Working With the Wee Ones

By John Beaulieu
Photos by author

In past issues, I've written about pollinating sinningias, which is really no different than for other gesneriads. The only other common gesneriad that is different is the African violet because it has enclosed pollen sacs that need to be cut open to get at the pollen. The majority of gesneriads have open pollen on the anthers.

Pollinating is as simple as collecting pollen from one flower and applying it to the stigma of another suitable flower. Anything from small brushes to toothpicks can be used for this purpose. The light-colored pollen may be hard to see on light colored picks and brushes. I have heard of some growers dipping toothpicks in india ink - and letting them dry - so the pollen is more visible.

I have made some tiny pollinating sticks from cutting sections from dark brown plastic pot hangers (see photo below). The pollen shows up quite well on these, and they are easily cleaned after use. I use a razor sharp 'snap-off' knife to make an angled cut to help hold the pollen.

The tools need to be small if you are working with the micro-minis, but the biggest challenge is actually preventing self-pollinating before you make your hybridizing attempt.

With most gesneriads, the anthers are developed before the stigma reaches full length. The stigma grows past the anthers, and in the case of many micro-minis, the stigma will often pick up pollen when it grows past the anthers. Plants such as Sinningia "Rio das Pedras" have a high rate of selfing.

I often use very tiny artist brushes for pollinating, but have found that using little sticks of brown plastic (from hanging pots) allows me to see the amount of pollen much easier.

***Sinningia "Rio das Pedras"* is a species that is relatively new to cultivation, and like the other micro-mini sinningias, it is well suited for terrarium culture.**

When you see the tiny "Rio" flower beside a mid-sized sinningia *(S. conspicua)*, you can understand why it can be more of a challenge to hybridize the wee ones.

In this cut-away view of a Rio das Pedras bloom, you can see the forked stigma growing past the anthers which have the pollen. Many micro-mini flowers self-pollinate as the stigma usually picks up pollen on the way by. This entire flower is only one-half inch in length.

There is a way to prevent this unwanted selfing. You need to remove the anthers before the stigma has a chance to come in contact with them. I have found for "Rio" that the time to do this is just before the flower opens, or at the latest, when the flower has just started opening.

I will firmly grip the base of the flower with two fingers, and with the other hand, I will hold the flower lobes and tug the corolla (flower tube) right off the base. It may take a couple flowers to master the technique.

With the tube gone, you can see the parts of the flower, and you can cut off the anthers and pollen (see photo at right). You will have to wait for the stigma to grow and mature, forming two lobes. It is now ready to accept the pollen that you want to use to make your cross.

It is all a fairly fast process with the micro-minis, and soon after pollination, you will notice that the stigma will start to shrivel and the ovary starts to swell. This will eventually form the seed pod.

The seed pods of the wee ones are tiny, even when compared to regular miniature sinningias. Micro-mini pods are only about a quarter inch in length. They do not usually appear as fat as the larger sinningia pods will.

The pods can be harvested when they have turned brown and are starting to split open.

Open the pods over a sheet of paper to collect the seeds. The best papers for wrapping and storing the seed are the little tissue-like papers used for hair perms. They are available at hairdressers and drug stores.

Fold the papers as shown in the photo below. A crease in the paper helps to keep the seeds in the middle. Fold the paper in half and then make a couple of folds toward the center from both sides. Fold over the open edge end and firm down. Make sure you label the cross! Store this packet in a small envelope or other sealed container, keeping unused seed in the refrigerator.

Continued next issue.

Choose a flower that is just starting to open.

After pollination the stigma shrivels and the ovary swells.

Dried micro-mini (left) and miniature sinningia pods.

2009 AVSA Convention Awards

Reno, Nevada

Society Awards - Amateur Horticulture Division

Best African Violet in Show - $50 & Tri-color rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show - $35 & rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show - $25 & rosette
Best Standard - $25 & rosette
Best Trailer - $25 & rosette
Best Semiminiature - $25 & rosette
Best Miniature - $25 & rosette
Best Species - $25 & rosette
Best Vintage Violet - $25 & rosette
Best Other Gesneriad - $25 & rosette
Best New Cultivar - $50 & rosette
Sweepstakes in Horticulture - $50 & rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Horticulture - $25 & rosette
Best Standard AVSA Collection - $50 & Gold rosette
2nd Best Standard AVSA Collection - $25 & Purple rosette
Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - $50 & Gold rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semimini AVSA Collection - $25 & Purple rosette

Society Awards - Design Division

Best Design in Show - $50 & Tri-color rosette
2nd Best Design in Show - $35 & rosette
3rd Best Design in Show - $25 & rosette
Sweepstakes in Design - $50 & rosette
Sweepstakes Runner-up in Design - $25 & rosette

Society Awards - Commercial Specimen Plants

Best African Violet in Show - $50 & rosette
2nd Best African Violet in Show - $35 & rosette
3rd Best African Violet in Show - $25 & rosette
Sweepstakes in Specimen Plants - $50 & rosette
Best Commercial Display Table - $125 & rosette
2nd Best Commercial Display Table - $100 & rosette
3rd Best Commercial Display Table - $75 & rosette
Best Commercial Showcase - $100 & rosette
2nd Best Commercial Showcase - $75 & rosette
3rd Best Commercial Showcase - $50 & rosette
Best African Violet on Display Tables - $50 & rosette
Best Other Gesneriad - $25 & rosette
Best Standard AVSA Collection - $50 & Gold rosette
2nd Best Standard AVSA Collection - $25 & Purple rosette
Best Mini/Semiminiature AVSA Collection - $50 & Gold rosette
2nd Best Mini/Semiminiature AVSA Collection - $25 & Purple rosette
Best New Cultivar - $75 & Blue rosette & plaque
2nd Best New Cultivar - $50 & Red rosette
3rd Best New Cultivar - $25 & White rosette

Society Awards - Publications

Best Yearbook - $50 & rosette
2nd Best Yearbook - $35 & rosette
3rd Best Yearbook - $25 & rosette
Best Newsletter - $50 & rosette
2nd Best Newsletter - $35 & rosette
3rd Best Newsletter - $25 & rosette
Best Magazine- $50 & rosette
2nd Best Magazine- $35 & rosette
3rd Best Magazine - $25 & rosette

Specified Awards - Commercial Division

Best Holtkamp Collection - $300 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - $200 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - $100 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses

Specified Awards - Amateur Division

Best Holtkamp Collection - $300, rosette & coin - Holtkamp Greenhouses
2nd Best Holtkamp Collection - $200 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses
3rd Best Holtkamp Collection - $100 & rosette - Holtkamp Greenhouses
Best Robinson Collection - $150, rosette & hand-beaded violet - The Violet Barn
2nd Best Robinson Collection - $50 - The Violet Barn
Best AVSA Registered Russian Hybrid Collection - $200 - Vladimir Kalgin
2nd Best AVSA Registered Russian Hybrid Collection - $100 - Vladimir Kalgin
Best Buckeye Collection - $200 - Pat's Patch - Pat Hancock
2nd Best Buckeye Collection - $100 - Pat's Patch - Pat Hancock
Best African Violet in Show - $25 & Silver Memorial for Elmer & Fannie Hall - Ovella Hall
Best Vintage Violet - $25 in memory of Thelma Walther - Barbara Elkin (CA)
Best Vintage Violet - $25 – Bay State African Violet Society (MA)
2nd Best Vintage Violet - $25 – Bay State African Violet Society (MA)
2nd Best Vintage Violet - $25 – Janet Riemer (NJ)
Best Episcia - $20 – High Hopes AV Club (GA)
Best Streptocarpus - $25 – No. California Council and Delta Gesneriad & African Violet Society (CA)
Best Other Gesneriad - $25 – No. California Council and Delta Gesneriad & African Violet Society (CA)

Best Other Gesneriad - $10 in honor of Bill Price – Nancy & Jerry Kast (FL)
Best "Ozark" Sinningia - $35 - David Harris
Best Design - $10 in honor of Paul Kroll – Nancy & Jerry Kast (FL)
Best Dish Garden - $25 in memory of Thelma Walther - Barbara Elkin (CA)

Specific Variety Awards - Amateur Horticulture
Best "ACA's Red Ember" - $25 - John & Doris Brownlee (Canada)
Best "The Alps" - $100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Japan)
Best "Concord" - $100 - Kazuo Horikoshi (Japan)
Best "Dolores' Sugar Candy" - $25 – Dolores Harrington (MN)
Best "Everdina" - $75 - Hans Inpijn (CA)
Best "Emilie Savage" - $25 – Jim & Linda Owens (OH)
Best "Jolly Orchid" - $25 – Hortense & Ray Pittman (TX)
Best "King's Ransom" - $25 - Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses/Paul Sorano (NY)
Best "Lilian Jarrett Variegated" (#2902) - $100 – in memory of Frank Tinari – Anne Tinari (PA)
Best "Lyon's Carnation Sprinkles" - $25 – Cathleen Graves (WA)
Best "Mark" (Maas) - $25 – Hattie Baggett (AZ)
Best "Mary D" (Maas) - $25 – Janet Riemer (CT)
Best "Nancy Hayes" (trailer) - $25 – Nancy Hayes (CT)
Best "Optimara Oklahoma" - $25 – John & Judy Carter (OK)
Best "Precious Pink" - $25 – Hortense & Ray Pittman (TX)
Best "Rosie Ruffles" - $25 – Dolores Harrington (MN)
Best "Rebel's Minnesota Haze" - $100 - Minnesota Convention Committee (MN)
Best "Rebel's Minnesota Haze" - $25 – Ruth Bann (MN)
Best "Thad's" Episcia - $25 – Irina Nicholson (CO)

Other Awards - Undesignated - Design
$20 – Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council (MO)
$25 - Albuquerque African Violet Club (NM)
$25 - Kathy Lahti (MN)
$25 – First African Violet Society of Spartanburg (NC)

Other Awards - Undesignated - Horticulture
$10 – Alice Easter (PA)
$20 – Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council (MO)
$25 – Wilhelmine Menish (FL)
$25 – First African Violet Society of Spartanburg (NC)
$25 – Tampa Bay Gesneriad Society (FL)
$100 – Terry & Rick Klemesrud (MN)

Other Awards - Undesignated
$10 – African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City (MO)
$20 – Nancy Amelung (MO)
$20 – Memphis African Violet Society (TN)
$20 – Thousand Oaks African Violet Society (CA)
$25 – African Violet Club of Greater Atlanta (GA)
$25 – Linda Golubski (MO)
$25 - Kathy Lahti (MN)
$25 – Ohio State African Violet Society (OH)
$25 – Ron & Jan Davidson (TX)
$25 – Sue Hoffmann (VA)
$25 – Thad Scaggs (FL)
$25 – Central Texas Judges' Council (TX)
$25 – Judges' Council of So. California (CA)
$25 – Upper Pinellas African Violet Society (FL)
$25 – Magic Knight African Violet Society (TX)
$25 – Central Texas Judges' Council (TX)
$25 - First Austin African Violet Society (TX)
$25 - South Coast African Violet Society (CA)
$25 – Tustana African Violet Society (CA)
$25 – Violet Perfection by Gini (CA)
$25 – Tri-Counties African Violet Society (CA)
$25 – African Violet Society of Rochester (NY)
$25 – New York State African Violet Society (NY)
$45 – Judi DuPont (IL)
$50 – Patricia Bell (Canada)
$50 – Bill Foster (TX)
$50 – San Mateo County African Violet Society (CA)
$50 – Tampa African Violet Society (FL)
$50 – African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa (OK)
$60 – Saintpaulia Society of Tacoma (WA)
$75 – Ovella Hall (AR)
$75 – Andrea Worrell (IL)
$100 – Aloha Rhodes (TX)
$100 – William Sugg (TX)
$100 – Paul Kroll (NY)
$100 – Tucson African Violet Society (AZ)
$100 – African Violet Council of So. California (CA)
$100 - Winston & Laurel Goretsky (Canada)
$100 – Missouri Valley African Violet Council
$200 – No. California Council of African Violet Societies (CA)

Thanks to the many individuals, clubs, and councils who have offered their generous award support for the 2009 show in Reno! It is your generosity that makes our show so special.

If your name is not on this list, there is still time to be included. Send your check or money order payable in U.S. funds and made out to 'AVSA Awards' to:

Judith Carter, *AVSA Awards Chair*
1825 W. Lincoln St
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

We look forward to hearing from you! Final deadline to be listed in the Reno Show Souvenir Book is February 15, 2009.

View a current Awards listing on the AVSA web site at www.avsa.org under National Convention. Although every attempt has been made to list awards correctly, we reserve the right to modify or change these listings.

57. Scaly-rhizomed in bloom
58. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (Streptocarpus/Streptocarpella)
59. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (Long-stemmed such as Aeschynanthus, Columnea, Nematanthus, etc.)
60. Fibrous-rooted in bloom (All other blooming fibrous-rooted such as Chirita, Episcia, Petrocosmea, Alsobia, etc.)
61. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (All Episcia)
62. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (Trailing or erect, other than Episcia)
63. Gesneriads grown for ornamental foliage (Rosette form such as Petrocosmea and Chiritas, other than Episcia)

DESIGN DIVISION

SECTION X - INTERPRETIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Each exhibit is a design using fresh-cut African violet blossoms. Dried, treated, painted, colored, and fresh-cut materials, as well as man-made materials, are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, and national flags are not allowed. Accessories, backdrops and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by class descriptions.

Class 64. **"The Carson Mint"** – The Mint opened in December 1869. More than $49,000,000 of gold and silver in eight different coins bearing the "CC" mint mark were made. Silver dollars, half dollars, quarters, and 20-cent pieces were also minted from metal mined on the Comstock. Create a small design not to exceed 8" in any dimension. To be staged at eye level in front of a 9" silver circle which will be provided along with another 9" silver circle to be used at the base. No other background is permitted, but an underlay is optional. Limit: 8 entries.

Class 65. **"Place Your Bets"** – Poker and other popular table games draw visitors from around the globe to the Biggest Little City. Create a flower design using cards or dice not to exceed 10" in any dimension. To be staged at eye level. Exhibitor to provide freestanding background and underlay. Limit: 8 entries.

Class 66. **"The Steamer Tahoe"** – The longest and grandest ship ever to grace Lake Tahoe was the SS Tahoe. Constructed in San Francisco, launched on June 24, 1896, and in service until 1934, it was scuttled in 1940 to the bottom of Lake Tahoe as a memorial in 400 feet of water. Create an underwater design to be staged at eye level and viewed from the front only. No underlayment or backdrop permitted. Not to exceed 12" in any direction. Limit: 12 entries.

Class 67. **"The Great Reno Balloon Races"** – This race paints the Reno skyline every year at Rancho San Rafael Park. From 20 balloons in 1982 to more than 100 entries from several countries, spectators from all over the world enjoy this event. Besides traditional balloons, specialties such as the Energizer Bunny, gold fish, bumble bee, bald eagle, cows, and Smokey the Bear float above the city. Create a design that will hang from a dowel rod spanning the wings of a white niche. Dowel rod will be provided upon request. To be staged in a white niche 28"H x 20"W x 20"D. Limit: 8 entries.

Class 68. **"Air Races"** – Pilots worldwide race at speeds of 500 miles an hour around Reno Stead Airport. This world class air show features static aircraft displays and aerobatics of the US Thunderbirds or Canadian Snowbirds. Create a kinetic design that will suggest flight with or without actual movement. To be staged in a white niche 28"H x 20"W 20"D. Limit: 8 entries.

Class 69. **"Hot August Nights"** – A celebration of America's love affair with cars and Rock and Roll. More than 800,000 people flock to this event where cars are the stars and rock and roll rules through dozens of concerts. Create a design to bring back this 50's and 60's era. To be staged in a white niche 22" H x 18"W x 18"D. Limit: 8 entries.

SECTION XI - INTERPRETIVE PLANT ARRANGEMENTS

All entries in this section are to be designs using one or more blooming African violet plants, all removed from their pots and with the root ball encased in plastic or some other material. Fresh-cut, dried, treated, painted, and colored plant materials, as well as man-made materials, are permitted. Artificial plant materials, live or dead creatures, or national flags are not allowed. Accessories, backdrops, and/or draping are permitted unless restricted by class descriptions.

Class 70. **"Reno Rodeo"** – For 90 years, the rodeo has ridden into town in June. With a purse of over 1 million, bronco riders, roping cowboys, and bull riders are featured in what is called "The Wildest, Richest Rodeo in the West." Create a plant design with a rodeo flair. To be staged in a white niche 22"H x 18"W x 18"D. Limit: 8 entries.

Class 71. **"National Auto Museum"** – The museum displays more than 200 cars from 1892 to the present. Bill Harrah also has collections of horseless carriages and many rare and one-of-a-kind cars. Design a plant arrangement using a mini or semimini plant to represent this world famous collection. To be staged at eye level in an area not to exceed 12" square. Background, underlay, and staging to be provided by designer. Limit: 8 entries.

Class 72. **"Lights, Glitz and Glamour"** – The Biggest Little City has an exciting array of shows, casinos, and attractions. Create a plant design to express the "Wow." To be staged in a white niche 22"H x 18"W 18"D. Limit: 8 entries.

Class 73. **"Winter Wonderland"** – Squaw Valley offers many winter sports and scenic vistas. Create a plant design using white blooms. To be staged in a white niche 22"H x 18"W x 18"D. Limit: 8 entries.

SECTION XII - CONTAINER GARDENS

These designs are miniature gardens or landscapes with one or more blooming African violet plants and other growing plant specimens. All plants must be planted in the container. No cut plant material, artificial plant materials, cacti or succulents, live or dead creatures, or national flags are permitted. Accessories are optional. No bases are allowed. There is no limit on the number of exhibits in each class, but only one entry by each exhibitor is allowed.

Class 74. **"Truckee Meadows"** – Reno was built near this area that once was a stop for wagon trains, miners, and rail workers. The lush area along the Truckee River with the Sierra Mountains rising close by also had many roads built through the meadow. A covered transparent terrarium not to exceed 25" in width or depth.

Class 75. **"Lake Tahoe"** – The largest freshwater lake in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the second deepest lake in the United States is fed by many streams. Vegetation in the basin is dominated by a mixture of pines, meadows brush, and rock outcroppings. Create a landscape in a shallow dish-like container not to exceed 18" in length or width.

AVSA CONVENTION SHOW SCHEDULE-2009

SPARKS, NEVADA

"AFRICAN VIOLETS AROUND THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY"

HORTICULTURE DIVISION-AMATEUR

SECTION I - COLLECTIONS

Class

1. AVSA Collection of three different registered standard varieties all of the same type (three single-crown or three trailers)
2. AVSA Collection of three different registered varieties of the same type (three single-crown miniatures, three miniature trailers, three single-crown semiminiatures, or three semi-miniature trailers).
3. AVSA Collection of three different species of any type.
4. Holtkamp Memorial Collection of three registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants of the same type: standard, miniature, or semiminiature.
5. Robinson Collection of three registered Rob's or Ma's plants, all of the same type: three single-crown standards, miniatures, or semiminiatures or three miniature or semiminiature trailers.
6. Buckeye Collection of three registered standard Hancock (Buckeye series) plants.
7. Russian Collection of three registered standard Russian hybridized plants.

SECTION II - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, GREEN FOLIAGE

Class

8. Dark blue and purple
9. Light to medium blue
10. Light to medium pink
11. Dark pink, rose, and coral
12. Red, wine, fuchsia, and plum
13. Lavender, mauve, orchid, white, cream, and blush
14. Multicolor and chimera (all shades of blue and purple)
15. Multicolor and chimera (all shades of pink, red, and yellow)
16. Fantasy
17. All edged

SECTION III - STANDARD PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

Class

18. Blue, purple, lavender, and orchid
19. Pink, red, fuchsia, coral, and wine
20. White, cream, and blush
21. Multicolor and chimera
22. Fantasy and all edged

SECTION IV - MINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

Class

23. Purple and all shades of blue, green foliage
24. Pink, coral, red, wine, and fuchsia, green foliage
25. Orchid, lavender, white, cream, and blush, green foliage
26. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged, green foliage
27. Fantasy, green foliage
28. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage
29. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
30. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
31. Multicolor, chimera, and all edged, variegated foliage
32. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION V - SEMIMINIATURE PLANTS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM

Class

33. Purple and all shades of blue, green foliage
34. Pink and coral, green foliage
35. Red, wine, and fuchsia, green foliage
36. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, green foliage
37. All edged, green foliage
38. Multicolor and chimera, green foliage
39. Fantasy, green foliage
40. Purple and all shades of blue, variegated foliage.
41. Pink, coral, red, and fuchsia, variegated foliage
42. Orchid, lavender, white, and blush, variegated foliage
43. All edged, variegated foliage
44. Multicolor and chimera, variegated foliage
45. Fantasy, variegated foliage

SECTION VI - TRAILERS, SPECIES AND VINTAGE VIOLETS, ANY TYPE BLOSSOM, ANY FOLIAGE

Class

46. Standard trailers
47. Miniature trailers
48. Semiminiature trailers
49. Saintpaulia species and natural hybrids
50. Vintage violets (must be at least 25 years old)

SECTION VII - NEW CULTIVARS

Class

51. Seedlings
52. Sports or mutants

SECTION VIII- AFRICAN VIOLET IN AN UNUSUAL CONTAINER

Class

53. One African violet plant, either standard, miniature or semi-miniature, in a container
54. One African violet trailer in a container

SECTION IX - GESNERIADS OTHER THAN AFRICAN VIOLETS

Class

55. Miniatures in bloom (may be displayed in regular pots or growing in clear container, cover permitted; no single plant more than 5" in diameter)
56. Tuberous-rooted in bloom (Sinningia, Nautilocalyx, Chrysothemis,etc.)

cultivars must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention Show.

10. Gesneriads (other than African violets) may be exhibited in protective containers, and natural-colored mulch may be used on the soil surface.
11. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges will be final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.
12. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive special awards.
13. Any African violet entered in any of the collection classes, receiving a blue ribbon, will be eligible for other awards.
14. All African violets entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 4, must be AVSA-registered Optimara and/or Rhapsodie plants and must be different plants of the same type.
15. All African violets entered in the Robinson Collection, Class 5, the Buckeye Collection, Class 6, and the Russian Collection, Class 7, must be AVSA registered.
16. Only one collection may be entered by an exhibitor in each class; AVSA Collections, Classes 1, 2, and 3, Holtkamp Memorial Collection, Class 4, Robinson Collection, Class 5, Buckeye Collection, Class 6, and Russian Collection, Class 7.
17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.
18. Exhibits must be checked out on Friday night, April 17, 2009. Instructions for checkout will be given at the convention.

Design Division Rules and Regulations

1. **Exhibitors** – Both amateur and commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter exhibits in this division.
2. **Entries** – Entries will be accepted Tuesday, April 14, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. **Only members on Tuesday tours or AVSA Board members may enter from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** Design entry book will close at 9 p.m. **Those desiring to enter designs after 6 p.m. must notify the Design Entry Reservation Chair in writing by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2009. Messages may be left at the convention registration desk.**
3. Each exhibitor may have only one entry per class and is limited to a total of eight entries in Classes 64 through 73 and one in each of the container garden classes 74 through 76.
4. **Design work – Exhibitors will be permitted to work on their designs until 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2009. This time will be strictly enforced.** Designers may replace blooms and touch up designs on Wednesday, April 15, from 6:30 a.m. until 8 a.m., but must be out of the showroom by 8 a.m.
5. **Index card** – All exhibits must have a 3"x5" card listing the African violet varieties and other plant materials (if known). A written subtitle may also be included on the card.
6. **Design Reservations** – Advance written reservations are required for all design classes. Anyone desiring to enter designs must send a complete reservation form (or copy) from the AVM show schedule pages by regular mail only, postmarked no earlier than February 1, 2009, nor later than March 15, 2009, to Heather Morgan, 1670 Ascension Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402-3615. No telephone or email reservations will be accepted. To cancel confirmed reservations or ask questions, you may email caviolet@aol.com or phone/cell: 650-346-7307.
7. No part of any design may touch or extend beyond the confines of the niche or space limitations.
8. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damage or loss.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Only AVSA affiliates in good standing are eligible to enter yearbooks, newsletters, and magazines.
2. Yearbooks must be mailed to Ron Davidson, 941 F. M. 2377, Red Oak, TX 75154. Two copies of the yearbook must be mailed to the judges by February 15, 2009.
3. Newsletters and magazines will be mailed to Ron Davidson, 941 F. M. 2377, Red Oak, TX 75154 by February 15, 2009. A complete club year of the issue must be included in duplicate.

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE DIVISION Rules and Regulations

1. Only commercial AVSA members in good standing and registered at this convention are eligible to enter this division. All commercial exhibitors are eligible to enter the Design Division.
2. All commercial members are allowed to enter all design and commercial classes without being excluded from any other commercial classes and may also enter a display table and a showcase.
3. For dates and times for entering exhibits, please refer to rule 2 under HORTICULTURE DIVISION AMATEUR.
4. All plants must be correctly named and must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months prior to convention. All African violets must be in bloom and must be single-crown plants, except trailers and some species.
5. In the Specimen Plant section, exhibitors may enter any number of plants in each class, but only one plant of the same variety in the same class. Exhibitors may enter plants of the same variety in the AVSA Collections, classes 81, 82, and 83, and the Holtkamp Memorial Collection, class 84, as are entered in the other classes. Exhibitors may enter one collection in each collection class. Plants entered in the Holtkamp Memorial Collection class must be AVSA-registered Optimara/Rhapsodie plants. AVSA collection rules are the same as they are for amateurs.
6. Any African violet plant in Specimen Plants, (Section B-New cultivar classes) Display Table, or Commercial Showcase sections may be designated as competing for the AVSA Best New Cultivar Awards. Entries may be seedlings, sports, or mutants originated by the exhibitor, or rights and ownership to them

released by the hybridizer, and must not have been previously shown in an AVSA Convention show. Each entry must be labeled "New Cultivar."

7. An exhibitor entering a display table may also enter other design and commercial classes. Each display table shall contain 15 plants (no merchandise). Three, all of the same type, miniatures or semiminiatures, or miniature or semiminiature trailers, shall count as a specimen plant and shall be judged as one unit. The display must be predominantly (at least 75%) African violets. Other gesneriads may be included in the 15 plants and will be judged as one unit. AVSA will provide white table covers for display tables; however, display tables may be covered with any color or pattern at the exhibitor's discretion.
8. Exhibits in the Commercial Showcase classes will be allotted table space sufficient for their display. Table covers will be neutral. Exhibits in these classes shall contain 6-10 plants, either miniature, semiminiature, standard, or trailing African violets, or other gesneriads. Showcases must be predominantly (75%) African violets or designs using African violets. Class 105, Commercial Showcase-Horticulture only shall be a collection of 6-10 plants, (exhibitor may designate one plant as a unit or three plants as a unit) with NO embellishment. Class 106, Commercial Showcase-Artistic, must include a creative aspect and may include designs (flower or plant arrangements or container gardens) incorporating African violets. Showcases-Horticulture and Showcases-Artistic shall both be judged on horticultural perfection. Horticultural perfection shall be computed by finding the average points per plant in the Showcase. No merchandise will be allowed in these classes. Awards in Showcase-Horticulture Class 105 shall be based 100% on horticultural perfection. Awards for Showcase-Artistic Class 106, shall be based on 80% horticultural perfection and 20% on distinction and originality. Awards will be given for best, second-best, and third-best for Display Table, Class 104, Showcase-Horticulture, Class 105, and Showcase-Artistic, Class 106.
9. In Commercial Showcases, each entry in the exhibit will be judged. Class 105 shall use standard plant name and entry tags supplied by Entries. In Class 106, the exhibitor has the option to use the standard plant name tag provided by Entries, or to provide his own tag or diagram. The entry book number of each plant or arrangement must appear on the tag or diagram. For Class 106, no ribbon awards will be given. Instead, each showcase with all blue ribbon exhibits will receive a rosette. A point score sheet shall be given to each exhibitor showing how awards were determined. (Please note: An exhibitor may choose to NOT have their Showcase judged).
10. A 6' table with three tiers will be furnished for each exhibitor in the Display Table Class 104. Uniformly covered tables shall be furnished. The exhibitor may provide their own covering. Colored lights which distort or enhance the color of the plants will not be permitted.
11. Any shape and type of pot for specimen plants will be permitted except flared top pots. Supports and collars will not be permitted. Pots in the specimen plant section must be slip-potted into clean, non-decorative pots in colors such as white, green, or any neutral tone. The bottom of the pot containing the plant must be completely covered with plastic or aluminum foil. The pot is then inserted into a pot of the same size or shape. The inside pot may be of any color and may extend above the rim of the outside pot. Exceptions to slip-potting are self-contained reservoirs (i.e., Oyama, Moist-Rite, etc.) in colors such as white, green, black, or any neutral tone. Pots in the Display Table class do not have to be covered and may be elevated and tilted with individual pot holders.
12. Signs, cards, or codes identifying the exhibitor may not be displayed on the display tables or commercial showcases prior to judging
13. Exhibits will be judged by the merit method of judging. The decision of the judges is final unless in conflict with AVSA rules or rules of the schedule. Only qualified AVSA judges will be permitted to serve as judges.
14. Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible to receive awards.
15. Exhibits in the Display Table class and the Commercial Showcase classes will not count toward Commercial Sweepstakes or Design Sweepstakes Awards.
16. Rosettes will be awarded as merited to the exhibitors receiving first, second, and third highest number of points in each Display Table and Commercial Showcase class. An Honorable Mention Rosette will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the fourth highest number of points.
17. AVSA will afford all possible protection to exhibits but will not be responsible for any damages or losses.
18. To reserve a display table, space for a commercial showcase, or for further information, contact Kathy Bell, 9611 E. Blanding Lane, Tucson, AZ 85747, e-mail bellkk@peoplepc.com. **Reservations must be made no later than March 4, 2009.**

African Violet Society of America, Inc.
2009 Reno Tours

Tour 1 - Monday April 13th 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Moana Nursery-Fleishman's Planetarium

Moana Nursery is our first stop today. They have a complete nursery and garden center along with demonstration gardens. The greenhouse is full of indoor plants along with a very nice gift shop. It's located on 10 acres right in Reno. After lunch on your own in Reno, we will go to Fleishmann's Planetarium which is part of the University of Nevada. You will have time to see the exhibits and movie in their dome theatre. At this time, we do not know what the movie will be. A gift shop is also available for your shopping fix.

For more information go to:
http://www.moananursery.com/Moana%20lane%20Store.htm
http://planetarium.unr.nevada.edu/
Tour Cost $43.00

Tour 2 – Monday April 13th 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
19th Hole at Lake Ridge Golf Course

We found a nice quiet place in the middle of Reno to have dinner with your friends and catch up on their news. It is going to be a buffet with an assortment of chicken, fish, and beef. They will have a cash bar. The restaurant has windows all the way to the floor for a breathtaking view of the lights of Reno.

For More information go to:
http://www.restaurantsregistry.com/lakeridge-golf-course-19th-hole-restaurant/202867/
Tour Cost $62.00

Tour 3 – Tuesday April 14th 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
Greenhouse Center - Red's Old 395 Grill - Governor's Mansion

Greenhouse Center and gift shop is located in Carson City, and it is a full service nursery complete with gift shop full of the stuff that gardens (and dream gardens) are made of. We will have a guided tour along with a short talk on "Critter Control". From there, we will have lunch on your own at world famous Red's Old 395 Grill where they feature BBQ ribs, crisp salads, Buffalo wings, and much more.

After lunch, we will go to the Governor's Mansion. This is the home of the current governor of Nevada. The mansion was built in 1909 and is a fine example of elegantly crafted Classic Revival architecture. There is a very slim possibility we will not be able to do this tour. If that happens, we will tour the capitol building.

For more information go to:
http://www.greenhousegardencenter.com/
http://www.reds395.com/html/lunch.php
http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-2830670-governor_s_mansion_reno
Tour Cost $49.00

Tour 4 – Wednesday April 15th 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
Wilbur D. May Center Museum & Arboretum

This morning we will go to the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical gardens located between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Great Basin Desert. The inside arboretum is the center's tropical retreat with a waterfall and two ponds stocked with koi and goldfish. The eight beds within feature plants that are exotic, including a pair of ancient plants whose roots run as far back as the age of dinosaurs. The arboretum has 12 acres covered with groves of trees, wetland habitats, outdoor courtyards, and secluded gardens. There is also a gift shop for your shopping pleasure.

For more information go to: http://www.maycenter.com/
Tour Cost $33.00

Tour 5 – Wednesday April 15th 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Textile Research Center - Nevada State Museum - Tahoe Ridge Winery

You're in for a fascinating day starting with the Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center. It is composed of the costume and textile collections of eighteenth century to current day fashions. Have you ever wondered how the ladies put on their shoes with all those huge dresses they wore? We will have an hour and a half guided tour. Come find out what it was like to live back then.

The Nevada State Museum is just down the street. Here you can see some of the history of Nevada. The Carson City Mint building is where coins were minted from 1870 to 1893. Explore Native American culture from their perspective and in their own words. Visit a silver mine and see where our money comes from. Walk through a ghost town. They change exhibits often so check the site below for further information.

From there we will travel to Genoa for lunch on your own and a little shopping. Then we'll be on our way to Tahoe Ridge Winery. Nestled in the Carson Valley, on the eastern slope of the great Sierra Nevada mountain range, lies the home of Tahoe Ridge Winery. We will have a tour to see how the wine is made. A visit to the tasting room will provide you the opportunity to savor some wonderful wines.

For more information go to:
http://nevadaculture.org/docs/museums/cc/russell_home.htm
http://nevadaculture.org/docs/museums/cc/exhibits.htm
http://www.tahoeridge.com/
Tour Cost $66.00

Tour 6 – Thursday April 16th 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Eldorado Dinner/Show "Menopause"

We will be going to the Eldorado for dinner and a play. The buffet features a wide variety of American, Italian, and Chinese cuisine featuring favorites like pizza, freshly baked desserts, breads, and pastries. Their food comes from their own bakery, butcher shop, pasta shop, and gelato factory. After dinner we will go to the Eldorado Showroom for a Broadway production of "Menopause". The reviews are not on their site at the time of this writing, but you can visit it now and read all about it. I've heard that it's one we don't want to miss.

For more information go to:
http://www.eldoradoreno.com/
Tour Cost $73.00

Tour 7 – Saturday April 18th – 10:00 am to 4:30 pm
Tahoe Cruise/Lunch

The luxurious paddle wheeler M.S. Dixie first came to Lake Tahoe in 1949 and has created a tradition of hospitality since then. Retired in 1993 and replaced by the state-of-the-art M.S. Dixie II, the tradition is alive today in Tahoe's newest and largest paddle wheeler. Enjoy an Emerald Bay Cruise and a delicious buffet lunch on the MS Dixie II. The water is beautiful with the Sierra Mountains as a back drop. This will truly be a day you'll remember.

For more information go to:
http://www.laketahoetours.net/tours/tourDetail.cfm?tour_id=8936
Tour Cost $75.00

What's New

2010 Calendars – This year you may pre-order calendars at reduced rates if you buy in quantity.

1-5 **$10.00 each**
6-10 **$9.00 each**
11+ **$8.00 each**

Just indicate the number desired on the appropriate line of the registration form and include the correct payment.

Reno T-shirts – You may once again pre-order convention T-shirts. Quantities will be limited.

Attention Affiliates

Newsletters, magazines and yearbooks must be received in duplicate by Ron Davidson, 941 F. M. 2377, Red Oak, TX 75154 no later than February 15, 2009, to be included in the judging process. Newsletters and magazines require one entire club year of issues.

Luncheon Auction!

Please do not ship before March 1st and please notify Jann that a package has been shipped.
775-851-4824 or jselleck@pyramid.net
Send items USPS to: Jann Selleck
PO Box 18165, Reno, Nevada 89511
If shipping UPS:
Jann Selleck
c/o Tapestry Glass
4690 Longley Ln # A-28
Reno, NV 89502

AVSA 2009 Reno Convention Grower's Forum

"Let Me Tell you About My Violets" Grower's Forum

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 . . . . . 8:15 p.m.
Moderator . . . . . TBA
Panelists . . . . . TBA

This is **your** opportunity to ask the panel of AVSA Bronze Medalists and other expert growers. If you have questions about any aspect of growing African violets and other gesneriads – horticulture, pests, diseases, hybridizing, soils, chemicals, planting techniques, and perhaps even using African violets in design – don't miss this opportunity! The Grower's Forum is always a favorite among convention-goers!

63rd Annual AVSA Convention & Show

Sunday, April 12, 2009 to Saturday, April 18, 2009

"African Violets Around the Biggest Little City"

SUNDAY, April 12, 2009

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Convention Pre-Con
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Registration
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Information

MONDAY, April 13, 2009

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. to Completion	Executive Board Meeting
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	**Tour #1 – Moana Nursery – Fleishman's Planetarium**
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Information
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Convention Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Classification and Entries for Convention Workers Only
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	**Tour #2 – 19th Hole at Lake Ridge Golf Course**
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Shows and Judges Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, April 14, 2009

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Registration
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Judging School
8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.	New Director's Orientation
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Classification and Entries
9:00 a.m. to Completion	Board of Director's Meeting
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Information
9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	**Tour #3 – Greenhouse Center, Red's Old 395 Grill, Governor's Mansion**
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Ways & Means Table, Raleigh Promotional Table
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	"Meet the Board of Directors" Luncheon
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Classification and Entries
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information and Sales
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Information
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Registration
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Awards Committee meeting
4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	President's Reception for Board of Directors
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Classification and Entries –FOR THOSE ON TOURS ONLY
7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.	Convention Opening – Tulsa Convention and New Introduction Slides
7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.	Social Break – Cash Bar
8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.	**"Let Me Tell You About My Violets", A Grower's Forum**
9:00 p.m.	Design Work and Commercial Display Set-ups will close for the night

WEDNESDAY, April 15, 2009

6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.	Design Exhibitors will be permitted to "touch up" designs and replace blossoms **only.**
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Judges and Clerks Instructions

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	**Tour #4 – Wilbur D. May Center Museum & Arboretum**
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	**Tour #5 – Textile Research Center-Nevada State Museum-Tahoe Ridge Winery**
9:00 a.m. to Completion	Judging of Show
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	AVSA Information and Sales
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Commercial Members meeting in Sales Room
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	**Session One Presentations** **A. "Hybridizing and Cultivating Episcias" by Thad Scaggs** **B. "Basic Skills for African Violet Growers"**
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Ways & Means Table, Raleigh Promotional Table
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open **to Convention Registrants Only**
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information and Sales
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Publications Committee Meeting
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Information
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Registration
3:00 p.m. to Completion	Photography – Library and AVM
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Membership & Promotions Committee meeting
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee meeting
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Future Conventions Meeting
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Opening Reception (cash bar)
7:00 p.m. to Completion	Awards Dinner – Show awards will be announced
9:30 p.m. to 12:00 m/n	Show opens to **AVSA Convention Registrants Only**

THURSDAY, April 16, 2009

6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Showroom open to photographers only
7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.	Teachers Breakfast
7:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Affiliates Breakfast (7:45) & Meeting (8:30)
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Information
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Showroom Open
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	**Session Two Presentations** **A. "Using the AVSA Entries Program" by John Carter** **B. "Parking Your Trailer in Paradise" by Dr. Bill Price**
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Ways & Means Table, Raleigh Promotional Table
12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.	Luncheon and Auction
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Ways & Means Table, Raleigh Promotional Table
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Information
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	**Session Three Presentations** **A. "Hands-on AV Hybridization" by Dave Rollins** **B. "Advanced Judging Skills – Making it Fun to Judge Design!" by Joyce Stork**
5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	**Tour #6 – Dinner Theater**

FRIDAY, April 17, 2009

7:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Judges' Breakfast and Workshop
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Registration

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Information
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Open
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	AVSA Information & Sales
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Showroom Open
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Commercial Sales Open
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	**Session Four Presentations** **A. "Taking the Gambling Out of AV Hybridizing" by Dr. Jeff Smith** **B. "Creating an Award-Winning Educational Display" by Tory Hartmann**
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Agriculture Officials available to certify plant materials for transportation into controlled countries and states.
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Ways & Means Table, Raleigh Promotional Table
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Internet Friends Luncheon and Meeting
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	**Session Five Presentations** **A. "The Amazing African Violet – From Species to Spectacular" by Pat Hancock** **B. "First Class: Basics and Beyond" by Barbara Pershing**
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open
3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Annual Membership Meeting and Open Forum
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	President's Reception and Hospitality Hour (cash bar)
6:00 p.m. to Completion	Installation Banquet
8:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.	Commercial Display Tables Checkout
8:45 p.m. to 12:00 m/n	Commercial Sales Breakdown
9:15 p.m.	Entry Checkout Begins
12:00 m/n	Showroom Closes

SATURDAY, April 18, 2009

6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Commercial Sales Breakdown
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Local Storage Clean-up
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Commercial Storage Clean-up
6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon	Showroom Clean-up
7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	**Tour #7 – Tahoe Cruise/Lunch**

JOHN ASCUAGA'S Nugget

Directions to John Ascuaga's Nugget
1100 Nugget Avenue
Sparks, NV 89431

From the Airport *(Reno/Tahoe International Airport):*

- We offer free shuttle service every half-hour to and from the airport. Shuttle service runs daily starting at 4:30am and ending at 12:00 Midnight. The shuttle runs from the Nugget **on the half-hour** and **on the hour**. From the airport, the shuttle runs **on the quarter-hour** and **on the three-quarter-hour**. Shuttle pickup and drop-off at the airport is at the far end of baggage claim D (the North side of the building). Shuttle pickup and drop-off at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort is at the Valet area in the Hotel Lobby.
- If you need transportation to the airport outside of these shuttle hours, please call the Nugget Operator at 775-356-3300 and ask for Security, they would be happy to pick you up or drop you off as available.
- If traveling by car, follow the **"From the South"** directions below.

From the North *(Hallelujah Junction, Susanville):*

- Travel South on Interstate 395 into Reno, head east on Interstate 80 towards Sparks.
- Take the Rock Blvd./Nugget Avenue (exit 17) exit, stay right (Nugget Ave.) and follow the signs.

From the South *(Reno/Tahoe International Airport, Carson City, Las Vegas):*

- Travel North on Interstate 395 into Reno, head east on Interstate 80 towards Sparks.
- Take the Rock Blvd./Nugget Avenue (exit 17) exit, stay right (Nugget Ave.) and follow the signs.

From the West *(Sacramento, San Francisco):*

- Head East on Interstate 80 towards Reno/Sparks.
- Take the Rock Blvd./Nugget Avenue (exit 17) exit, stay right (Nugget Ave.) and follow the signs.

From the East *(Elko, Salt Lake City):*

- Head West on Interstate 80 towards Reno/Sparks.
- Take the Pyramid Way (exit 18) exit and bear left. Look for the Nugget Avenue signs directing you left.
- After going under the freeway, make a right onto Nugget Ave. and follow the signs.

Please see www.janugget.com for more information.

Reno Convention Presentations

Session 1 A. Hybridizing and Cultivating Episcias
Wednesday April 15, 2009 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Thad Scaggs, Spring Hill, Florida

Episcias are easier to cultivate and to hybridize than many people realize. This informative program will cover the basic needs of episcias and the proper conditions and techniques for maximum success with hybridization. The range of foliage and blossom color in these exciting and rewarding plants has expanded greatly in recent years. Learn about the most promising new developments!

Session 2 A. Using the AVSA Entries Program
Thursday April 16, 2009 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
John Carter, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

This is the 10th anniversary of the use of the AVSA Awards program at a national show. It has undergone many improvements since the first version. The program still provides some technical challenges. Used properly, it insures that exhibits are entered correctly, it provides accuracy for the awards committee, and gives exhibitors an official report to use as they advance as judges. John Carter will demonstrate the use of the new 2009 updated program and answer your questions.

Session 3 A. Hands-on AV Hybridization
Thursday April 16, 2009 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Dave Rollins, Cedar Creek, Kentucky

Limited to 25 participants. $20 fee collected at convention registration desk upon arrival. Popular Kentucky series African violet hybridizer David Rollins will guide participants step-by-step through the process of hybridization. Participants will be able to select two parent plants at the workshop, hybridize them on site, and take them home. Make your debut as a hybridizer or just learn more about how it is done!

Session 4 A. Taking the Gambling Out of AV Hybridizing
Friday April 17, 2009 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Dr. Jeff Smith, Muncie, Indiana

Do you feel that hybridizing is always a gamble and you'll never produce the plants you want? Dr. Jeff Smith will show you how to beat the odds using his many years of advice from his column "In Search of New Violets". Learn how traits in African Violets are inherited and how to use that knowledge to improve your chances of hybridizing the perfect plant.

Session 5 A. The Amazing African Violet – from Species to Spectacular
Friday April 17, 2009 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Pat Hancock, Middletown, Ohio

In little more than sixty years, the African violet has gone from the 'original ten' hybrids to more than ten thousand varieties in a myriad of shades, shapes, and foliage styles. Join acclaimed 'Buckeye' series hybridizer Pat Hancock for an entertaining and educational history of the major milestones in AV hybridization. Along the way, Pat will reveal some of her past, present, and future hybridization goals and a few of her own strategies for success. Follow the road violets have taken to get to the rainbow of choices available today!

Session 1 B. Basic Skills
Wednesday April 15, 2009 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Whether you are learning basics of African Violet culture and care for the first time or 'getting back to the basics' all over again, this program will help you achieve the results you desire from your plants. Attendees will learn the most important foundational skills and how to adapt the tricks of more experienced growers to their own collections. This will be the perfect setting to ask questions and to learn without intimidation.

Session 2 B. Parking Your Trailer in Paradise
Thursday April 16, 2009 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Dr. Bill Price, Vancouver, B.C., Canada

From selecting the first leaf or cutting to root though evaluating young plants for their show potential and cultivating them to Best-in Show perfection, growing trailing African violets is a unique challenge. The always-entertaining Dr. Bill Price will share his best-practice tips and techniques for evaluating best potential show plants and growing both pendulous and upright varieties as well as general cultivation guidelines for soil mix, pot types, fertilizers, etc. Hitch your trailer to this lucky star!

Session 3 B. Advanced Judging Skills - Making It Fun to Judge Design!
Thursday April 16, 2009 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Joyce Stork, Fremont, Nebraska

Do you dread being asked to judge African violet design sections? Maybe it's because you never really feel confident that you are giving the correct award. Attend this presentation and get hands-on experience judging actual designs using the point-score method. Joyce has used this method for years and promises to remove the mystery! It's not just for judges... design exhibitors will also learn how to evaluate their own designs so they can avoid mistakes. Don't miss this great opportunity!

Session 4 B. Creating an Award-Winning Educational Display
Friday April 17, 2009 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Tory Hartmann, San Mateo, California

The educational display, required at all AVSA affiliate shows, is a critical tool for attracting new members and re-energizing existing members. We all know that education is one of the prime directives of the AVSA, but *how* does one create an educational display that will cover all of the required elements in eye-catching and creative ways? Tory Hartmann will share her ideas and resources for creating an educational display to remember.

Session 5 B. First Class: Basics and Beyond
Friday April 17, 2009 1:00 to 2:30
Barbara Pershing, Cedar Falls, Iowa

If you thought First Class was a Windows computer program with names and descriptions of more than 16,000 African violet cultivars and species, and photos for more than 4,000 of them, you would be right. However, the program does much more than just display the names, descriptions, and photos. Learn how to use all of the many features that the program has to offer. Even those who consider themselves as "advanced users" will learn a secret or two. Joe Bruns, who developed First Class and still maintains it, assisted Barbara Pershing, one of the 2002 beta testers, in preparing this informative program.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.
63rd Annual Convention and Show
April 12 - April 18, 2009 • John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, Sparks, NV

Call for 2009 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of The African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Friday, April 17, 2009, at 3:15 p.m. at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, Sparks, NV, for the purpose of **electing Officers and Directors** and transacting business that may properly come before The Assembly.

Call for 2009 Board of Directors Meeting

The African Violet Society of America, Inc. Board of Directors Meetings will be held Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 9:00 AM to completion and Saturday April 18, 7:00 AM to 9:30 AM at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, Sparks, NV, for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the Board of Directors.

Call for 2009 Open Forum Meeting

The 24th annual Open Forum meeting of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held Friday, April 17, 2009 at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, Sparks, NV. This will take place the first twenty minutes of the Annual Meeting. At this time, the Board of Directors of AVSA will welcome any and all AVSA members to come and present any suggestions, ideas, questions, etc.

Registration For Judging School For Students and Certificate Renewals

An AVSA judging school will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, for AVSA members who wish to take their first judge's school and for judges who wish to renew their certificates. The lecture will be from 7:30 am-12:00 noon and must be attended in order to take the exam. The test begins at 2:00 pm. The registration fee is $7.50 payable to AVSA. AVSA membership cards must be presented at the door. Proof of three blue ribbons is required.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____ E-mail Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Judging Status: Student (1st exam)_____ Student Renewal_____ Advanced_____ Auditing_____

Complete this form (or facsimile) and mail, with registration fee of $7.50 (make checks payable to AVSA in U.S dollars) to: **Barbara Pershing, 8134 Buck Ridge, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.** The test will be based on the latest edition of the AVSA Handbook, the 2007 printing plus any updates. **Registration for the judging school must be received by March 4, 2009.**

Attention Judges

All Advanced, Senior, and Master Judges are eligible to judge the convention show. If you would like to judge, please complete this form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These must be postmarked no later than March 4, 2009.** If you plan to exhibit in the show, please indicate which classes you plan to enter. **Do Not** serve on entries, classification, or placement if you apply to judge. Applications received after March 4, 2009 will be filed and used in the event of cancellations and/or vacancies. If selected to judge you will be notified of your assignment.

Name _____ AVSA Membership # _____

Address _____ E-mail Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Classes entered _____

Type of Judge: _____ Advanced _____ Senior _____ Master _____ AGGS _____ Nat'l Council

Experience: _____ Mini/Semis _____ Trailers _____ Species _____ Standards _____ Design _____ Commercial

Attention Judges' Clerks

Student and Advanced Judges are invited to serve as clerks for the convention show. Any vacancies will be filled with AVSA members. This means that AVSA members may apply to serve as clerks; however, judges will be given first preference. Any remaining positions will be filled by AVSA members in the order in which the applications are received. All clerks will receive notification of their assignment. If you would like to clerk, please complete this form and mail to: Bill Foster, AVSA Shows & Judges Chairman, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150-2121. **These applications must be postmarked no later than March 4, 2009.**

Name _____

Address _____ E-mail Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ Student Judge _____ Advanced Judge _____ AVSA Member

Design Division Reservations

(Please type or print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number _____ E-mail Address _____

I would like to enter the following design classes: (Limit eight, **excluding container gardens**)

1._____ 2._____ 3._____ 4._____ 5._____ 6._____ 7._____ 8._____

Alternate choices: 1._____ 2._____ 3._____

I would like to enter the following Container Garden Classes: 1._____ 2._____ 3._____

Entries will be accepted ONLY if postmarked February 1, 2009 or later by regular mail. **No telephone or e-mail reservations will be accepted.** Reservations will be on a first come basis. Send reservations, **no later than March 15, 2009** to Heather Morgan, 1670 Ascension Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402-3615. Phone/cell: (650) 346-7307 Fax: 650-588-2344.

AVSA's 63rd Annual Convention & Show
"African Violets Around the Biggest Little City"
April 12 - 18, 2009 - John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel, Sparks, NV
AVSA Convention Registration Form

NOTE: Each person registering must use a separate form; photocopies may be used if more are needed.
Please send this completed form, with your check, money order, or credit card number made out in the appropriate amount to **AVSA**. Mail to: The AVSA Office - 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. Refunds will be made upon written request only if received by February 25, 2009. There will be a $5.00 paperwork fee charged for cancellations. Following receipt of your registration, you will receive confirmation from the AVSA Office which includes your convention registration, tours, presentations, meal information, and any materials being mailed in advance of the convention.

Membership # _____ Last Name _____ First _____ Initial _____ Area Code/Phone # _____

Street or P.O. Box _____ Apt. # _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (confirmations will be e-mailed if possible) _____

(Please remember to use a separate form for spouse, guest, or child attending. Photocopies may be used.)

PLEASE CIRCLE APPROPRIATE STATUS:

(A) Individual Member	(E) Judge	(I) Judging School Teacher	(M) Non-Member (guest)
(B) Life Member	(F) Senior Judge	(J) Bronze Medal Winner	(N) 1st Convention
(C) Honorary Life Member	(G) Master Judge	(K) Board Member	(O) Columnist
(D) Associate Member	(H) Commercial Member	(L) Affiliate President	(P) Hybridizer

This is my (#) _____ convention. Name to go on Badge_____
(Note: If you are a Commercial Member and want your business name to appear, please write it in also.)

____Yes ____No **Is there any possibility that you might bring horticultural exhibits? (If yes, entries information will be mailed to you.)**

In case of emergency, whom should be notified?_____ _____ Name

Relationship _____ Address _____ City/State _____ Area Code/Phone # _____

TRAVEL BY:

Personal Car____ Other_____ Rental Car____ Airline_____
If by plane, arrival day/date and time If by plane, departure day/date and time

REGISTRATION:

Package Deal (includes registration and meal functions 2, 5, and 8) **$159.00** **$ _____**
Package not available after February 25, 2009

After February 25, 2009, each registration will be $75.00 or $78.00 respectively.

REGISTRATION:

AVSA or Associate Member (Early Bird Discount)	$60.00	$ _____
AVSA or Associate Member (after February 25, 2009)	$75.00	$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (Early Bird Discount)	$63.00	$ _____
Non-Member (Guest) (after February 25, 2009)	$78.00	$ _____
One day registration (allows registrant to participate for one day of convention)		
Please indicate: Wed._____ Thurs._____ Fri. _____ Total days marked _____ x	$35.00	$ _____
Early Booking Discount for those who book reservations at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel by February 25, 2009		
List hotel reservation number _____ **Subtract**	$10.00	$- _____
TOTAL REGISTRATION		$ _____

MEALS:

_____ 1. Tues. "Meet the Board of Directors" Luncheon - Sliced Cold Cuts and Cheeses w/potato salad.	$26.00	$ _____
_____ 2. Wed. Awards Dinner - Chicken Wellington	$44.00	$ _____
_____ 3. Thurs. Teachers Breakfast - Croissant w/Scrambled Eggs, Bacon and Cheddar Cheese	$22.00	$ _____
_____ 4. Thurs. Affiliates Breakfast - French Toast w/Bacon	$20.50	$ _____
_____ 5. Thurs. Luncheon/Auction - Pasta Pacific (Seafood)	$34.50	$ _____
_____ 6. Fri. Judges Breakfast - Scrambled Eggs w/Ham	$20.00	$ _____
_____ 7. Fri. Internet Friends Meeting - Grilled Herbal Chicken Breast on Baguette	$21.00	$ _____
_____ 8. Fri. Installation Banquet - Herbed Entrecote of Beef	$53.00	$ _____
TOTAL MEALS		$ _____

PERSONS WISHING TO BE SEATED TOGETHER AT MEAL FUNCTIONS (LIMIT 10 PER TABLE) ***MUST*** MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO THE AVSA OFFICE, IN THE SAME ENVELOPE, BEFORE February 25, 2009. THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS. SPECIAL MEAL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE TO THE AVSA OFFICE AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. **REQUESTS MADE DIRECTLY TO HOTEL WILL NOT BE HONORED.**

TOURS (meal are included in Tours 2, 6, and 7)

_____1. Mon. April 13 Moana Nursery - Fleischman's Planetarium. . . . . $43.00 $_____
_____2. Mon. April 13 19th Hole at Lake Ridge Golf Course. . . . . $62.00 $_____
_____3. Tues. April 14 Greenhouse Center - Red's Old 395 Grill - Governor's Mansion . . . . . $49.00 $_____
_____4. Wed. April 15 Wilbur D. May Center Museum & Arboretum . . . . . $33.00 $_____
_____5. Wed. April 15 Textile Research Center, Nevada State Museum, Tahoe Ridge Winery . . . . . $66.00 $_____
_____6. Thurs. April 16 Dinner Theater "Menopause" . . . . . $73.00 $_____
_____7. Sat. April 18 Tahoe Cruise/Lunch . . . . . $75.00 $_____

TOTAL TOURS $_____

Tuesday April 14, 2009

_____ 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Social Hour, Slides of 62nd Tulsa Convention and New Introductions
_____ 8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m "Let Me Tell you About My Violets: A Grower's Forum"
Moderator: TBA
Panelists: TBA

PRESENTATIONS: (Please check those presentations which you wish to attend)

Wednesday April 15, 2009 Session One (Choose Only One)
_____A. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Hybridizing and Cultivating Episcias: by Thad Scaggs
_____B. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Basic Skills for African Violet Growers"

Thursday, April 16, 2009 Session Two (Choose Only One)
_____A. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Using the AVSA Entries Program" by John Carter
_____B. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Parking Your Trailer in Paradise" by Dr. Bill Price

Thursday, April 16, 2009 Session Three (Choose Only One)
_____A. 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. "Hands on AV Hybridization" by Dave Rollins
_____B. 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. "Advanced Judging Skills - Making it Fun to Judge Design!" by Joyce Stork

Friday, April 17, 2009 Session Four (Choose Only One)
_____A. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Taking the Gambling Out of AV Hybridizing" by Dr. Jeff Smith
_____B. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. "Creating an Award-Winning Educational Display" by Tory Hartmann

Friday, April 17, 2009 Session Five (Choose Only One)
_____A. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "The Amazing African Violet - From Species to Spectacular" by Pat Hancock
_____B. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. "First Class: Basics and Beyond" by Barbara Pershing

MERCHANDISE NEW

_____2010 1-5 AV Calendars No. requested _____ x . . . . . $10.00 $_____
_____2010 6-10 AV Calendars No. requested _____ x . . . . . $9.00 $_____
_____2010 11+ AV Calendars No. requested _____ x . . . . . $8.00 $_____
_____Tee Shirts Convention Logo Size (please circle) S M L XL . . . . . $18.00 $_____
_____Tee Shirts Convention Logo Size (please circle) XXL XXXL . . . . . $20.00 $_____

TOTAL MERCHANDISE $_____

PAYMENT:

Total Package $_____
Total Registration $_____
Total Meals $_____
Total Tours $_____
Total Merchandise $_____

TOTAL
PAYMENT ENCLOSED $_____

NOTE: Cancellations must be received by February 25, 2009 to be entitled to a refund.
There will be a $5.00 fee for all cancellations.
Send payment and completed registration form to:
Convention Registration
AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722
(409) 839-4725. Wherever possible, confirmations will be e-mailed.

Please double check to ensure all numbers are listed correctly
Check one:

❑ Visa # _____
Expires _____ 3 Digit Code _____

❑ MasterCard # _____
Expires _____ 3 Digit Code _____

❑ Check or Money Order Enclosed

_____
Signature (if using card)

Hotel Reservation
2009 AVSA Convention, Show and Annual Membership Meeting
The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Register by mail, by phone, or online by going to www.avsa.org and clicking first on National Convention, scroll to Hotel Reservations, and click on "Book Hotel Reservations Online", or copy and paste the following URL into your browser: http://www.janugget.com/jump/935/ Special offer code GAVS9

BE SURE TO NOTE THE RESERVATION GUARANTEE NUMBER TO QUALIFY FOR THE EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT (DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 25, 2009)!

Please mail to:

John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel
1100 Nugget Av., P.O. Box 797
Sparks, NV 89432-0797
(800) 648-1177

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Country:** _____

Phone Number; (____) ____-_____

Email address (for confirmation): _____

Sharing Room with _____

Make check or money order payable to John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel. Do not send currency. **DO NOT SEND TO AVSA OFFICE!**

To confirm your reservation, the hotel accepts any of the following as means of payment:
One Night's Deposit Enclosed _____ MasterCard _____ Discover _____ Amex _____ Visa _____
Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: ___/___/____

Signature: _____

To cancel, phone John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel. Cancellations must be made 48 hours prior to check-in.

Room Rate: Single/Double $99.00 per night (up to 2 persons per room) + 13.5% tax and a $5.00 resort fee
Triple/Quad $109 per night (3 or 4 persons per room)
+ 13.5% tax and a $5.00 resort fee

Bed types available:
Queen-Queen _____
King _____
Single/Double (2 persons) _____
Triple/Quad (3 or 4 persons) _____

Number of persons in room: _____
Arrival Date: _____
(Check in 3:00 p.m.)
Departure Date: _____
(Check out 11:00 a.m.)

This hotel allows smoking.

Reservations **must** be received by: **March 10, 2009.** The AVSA reserved room block will be released after this date. **Please note that the deadline for the Early Reservation Discount is earlier!**

Hosts – Hostesses
Reno and AVSA Need You!

More individuals than ever before are needed to host the Reno show room! The Show will be open to the public for *two* full days, and the public will be paying an admission fee. Hosts are needed to greet our guests as they enter the room, to verify that they have paid admission, to encourage them to ask questions, and to invite them to join AVSA (the cost of admission will be applied to their AVSA membership dues). This is an important job!!

If you would be willing to serve for a one hour shift, please complete the coupon below by March 4, 2009, and send it to: Gail Podany, 5256 Beachside Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55343. E-mail: gail.podany@lindjensen.com

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Preferred Time: Thursday _____ or Friday _____

Is Room Sharing for You?

Room sharing has become very successful. Are you interested in reducing your expenses by sharing a room with someone? We offer this service to anyone interested.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Single/Double $99.00 plus 13.5% room tax + $5.00 resort fee.

Age: Under 25 ____ 26-50 ____ 51 and Over ____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Any other considerations: _____

When you have considered your plans and wish to share a sleeping room with someone, PLEASE contact the AVSA office immediately. All requests must be made **by February 15, 2009** so we may contact all interested "violet friends" and meet the deadline for hotel reservations, which is February 25, 2009 (to receive Early Booking discount). Please send requests to: AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702-1722. Phone 409-839-4725.

Wanted! Photos for Social Hour

Please share your digital photos of our 62nd Tulsa, OK Convention. They will be shown at the Tuesday night Opening Event. Include any information about the photo (names, state, etc.) Please send your photos (on CD-Rom or floppy disk) to Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003, or email photos to violetnancy@comcast.net. Photos must be received by March 4, 2009.

Attention: Hybridizers Wanted

Digital images of New Introductions are needed for the Tuesday night Opening Event. This is an excellent way for seasoned and beginning hybridizers to introduce their new hybrids. Please send two shots of each new plant; one viewing the plant and the other a close-up of the blossom. Please include with your photos a written description of each image, marked with a corresponding number for clarification. Send your CD-Rom or floppy disk to Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003 or email photos to violetnancy@comcast.net. Photos must be received by March 4, 2009.

Petrocosmea 'Short'nin' Bread'

Exhibited by: ***Linda Golubski***

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Optimara EverPraise

Exhibited by: ***Carol Tjaden***

Hybridized by: ***R. Holtkamp***

Large

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

The Mystery of the White "Pellets"

By Joyce Stork

Anyone who has ever had a prized violet develop unexplained symptoms will empathize with my friend Elena in Russia. We solved her mystery, but it took the exchange of a few emails.

The story begins in Saratov, Russia, in the high-rise apartment of Elena Kornilova in March of 2008. Elena had decided to renovate her home and tear down part of a wall between the living room and the kitchen. Because Elena's extensive collection of African violets was in that room, she knew she needed to find a different place for them until the project was done. An elderly woman who lived nearby had no experience, but was willing to adopt the violets for the interim period. So the violets were packed up and delivered to their temporary location.

In the fall, I received a message from Elena that the remodeling project was done, and the violets were back in her home. The violets had suffered! She had lost a few and the rest all needed transplanting. She was fearful that some had rot. She was working diligently to take care of the problems.

Not long after, another message and photo came about the problems she was having. She wrote:

"My battered violet army or company rather (so dwindled are its numbers) is licking its wounds. Some are doing pretty well but only some. Like real soldiers, they came home with multiple injuries: some have lost limbs (due to root rot), many leaves are broken, torn, and there are scars on stems and petioles. But two days ago, I noticed another problem and, like that proverbial boy, I started screaming: pests! Not all the violets are affected. I consulted your book and could not diagnose the culprit. There are tiny white pellets mostly on the underside and a few on the upper side. No webbing. Nobody is moving. First, I treated the leaves with alcohol, in the morn these aliens were there. Yesterday, I washed the violets with coal tar soap. Fewer, but still there. I have seen some on the petioles as well. I have taken pictures, but as my hands were trembling, I guess they are rather fuzzy. Could you come up with a solution?"

Elena's photo showed the tiniest amount of white speckles on an otherwise very healthy-looking plant of 'Northern Seduction'. In fact, it took me a bit of time even to spot the speckles that were worrying her.

The first suggestion was to prod the white pellets with a needle or pin point to see if any fiber might pull away, thinking it might be foliar mealy bug. But her response back indicated the first guess was wrong:

"I have prodded the "sample". No fiber, no trace of it even. Instead the "pellet" crumbled. It looked like finely ground sugar to me. Maybe the critters are hibernating? And the pellet did not remind me of an empty shell. An idea occurred to me (please do not laugh!): what if it is some insect's "poo"? Unfortunately, the sample was too tiny for me to sniff it: (And I am no expert in such things: does insect excrement smell?) So I am clueless."

Since it appeared that the pellet was a crystal, and it was unlikely that an insect would excrete crystals, I discouraged her line of thinking. Instead, now, it seemed more likely to be a chemical or salt of some sort. Since the plants looked healthy, I suggested that she do nothing unless more symptoms appeared. It wasn't much of a solution.

Several hours later, I had a thought.... Elena had remodeled! I asked her about the remodeling. Could be residue from the construction project? We had a little challenge discussing the materials that are used in such projects, since she was not familiar with "drywall" and the Russian-English translation books were not of much help! But Elena did understand my drift and assured me that the project was completely done before the plants came back. The workers had used gypsum boards for the ceiling and either plaster or stucco on the walls.

I shared with her that the dust from plaster and gypsum can float in the air for a long time. I had once judged a show where a grower had many lovely exhibits that had noticeable traces of something on the leaves, causing her to receive some red ribbons. The exhibitor explained later that she had remodeled and the dust was very persistent and difficult (if not impossible) to remove.

Elena wrote back:

"Now that you have mentioned the show and the dust

that really stuck to the plants I realize that you must be right. I remember the first time I cleaned the floor: like poor Cinderella, I polished it for hours and still it had that white dust coat. Sometimes I see plaster /stucco bits beside the floor skirting. The foreman has warned us that it may take months for the dust to settle down. You know that my violets grow on the window sill and the six violets with the pellets are in the right hand corner. I insisted on knocking down part of the wall separating the former living room from the kitchen. So these violets are very close to the "Berlin" wall. So that's what it is all about. Much ado about nothing! You are never too old to learn. Thank you very much, Sherlock. Now it does seem elementary!"

Isn't it fun to solve a good mystery?

Brush, Brush, Brush, Blow, Wash, and All That Jazz

By Sandra Lex

It's really not "All That Jazz," but something which is serious and we should give more attention to grooming and more grooming!

I'm not the only judge amazed at how some exhibitors literally throw away a blue ribbon through lack of grooming. Here is an opportunity to actually steal, and I mean steal, 20 points when your bloom count may not be up to snuff. Why go to all of the trouble to grow a plant, pack it for show, and then not do what is best for the plant and for you? Here are some pointers on things to be aware of, and what you should try to correct.

Check Your Symmetry

Most often, we see that a couple of bottom rows should have been removed to improve symmetry. Usually these are immature leaves and only take away from the plant in energy and conformation. Just removing these leaves and putting in soil to cover up the base of the plant will earn or save you a few points. I've seen some judges who literally take a plant from a blue to a red just on this criteria. I think that is rather severe, but when you consider that symmetry is your most important point, why risk it? This is mainly with miniatures and semiminiatures. Check yours carefully and see how they stack up. Bring them to your club meetings and ask the experts. They will be more than pleased to give you advice.

Fertilizer Marks

Carelessness when watering causes marks on leaves, and they can be difficult to remove. The hairy foliage of the violet is not conducive to removing the stain. When fertilizer water is spilled on leaves, *immediately* blot the water with a paper towel. Do not let the fertilized water dry. Nothing looks so unattractive as a plant with a multitude of fertilizer stains.

Spent Blossoms

Blossoms past their prime are immediately apparent to judges. But, many exhibitors lose points for them. If there is any doubt in your mind, take them off, and do it neatly with a pair of sharp pointed scissors. Leaving stubs on the flower stalks can cause a loss of points. Check your plant in daylight just before packing them away for transport to the show. The bright light will make spent blooms more obvious as well as other things that may be wrong with the plant.

Suckers

I think most of us are aware of what suckers are. We all get them and *all* of the suckers should be removed or you will lose points. A complete sucker on a plant will automatically disqualify an entry.

High Necks

Some exhibitors seem to think that most judges' won't notice a long neck. Wrong! Studying a plant at eye level, a long neck becomes it becomes very apparent. Just take a bit off the bottom of the soil or root ball, put down into the pot, and top with more soil. It is very easy to correct. Your soil level should be just below the rim of the pot. But remember that points are lost if you don't clean up the neck.

Packing

After all of this work, why jam your plants together in one box and hope they arrive at the show in one piece? Carefully pack them with enough cushioning to prevent the leaves from cracking and breaking off. Even if it means making two trips to the show, pack carefully, or leave some plants at home and only bring your very best.

Remember that we are trying to teach new members how to grow good plants and educate the public in the proper way of growing our beautiful African violets. Give it a try the next time, and see what a little extra grooming will do for you!

From *Chatter*, publication of the AVS of Canada

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Jolly Fire

Exhibited by: ***Anne Nicholas***

Hybridized by: ***H. Pittman***

Semiminiature

Optimara EverLove

Exhibited by: ***Barbara Pershing***

Hybridized by: ***R. Holtkamp***

Standard

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Sinningia 'Ozark Fireworks'

Exhibited and Hybridized by:

David Harris, Dave's Violets

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

DO YOU HAVE A SAD, SAD PLANT?

By Sue Gardner

Were you too busy to notice that plant at the back of the shelf until it obviously was in trouble?

Did you forget to water your plant until the leaves drooped over the pot rim?

Did side-shoots develop because you did not look at the plant properly for several weeks?

Has your plant developed a giraffelike neck?

Does your plant just look sad?

If you answer "yes" to any of the above questions, you need to diagnose and treat your plant in order to salvage it. First, to diagnose the problem, check the following:

1. WATER

Pick up the pot. If it is very light, and the top of the potting mix is dry, the plant needs water. Don't drown it with excess water! Just add a little to moisten the potting mix, and then re-water after a few hours. It will take several days for the plant to recover as much vitality as possible. It sometimes recovers more quickly if placed in a covered container.

You may have to remove outer leaves that do not re-hydrate. Then you will need to re-pot the plant down in its pot to eliminate the neck and give the plant a new lease of life.

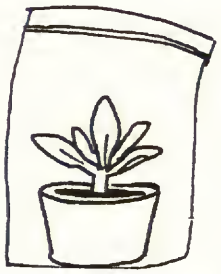
2. PESTS OR DISEASE

Look at the foliage. Are there any signs of pests or disease? If so, treat with the appropriate cure. If there are mealy bugs, it may be best to throw the plant out. If powdery mildew is present, spray with a fungicide.

If the leaves are soft and droopy, but the potting mix is moist, the cause is usually root or crown rot, or horror of horrors - soil mealy bug! Remove the plant from the pot and check. If any of these are present, you can often take a crown cutting successfully. To do this, cut off all the rootball, remove all brown areas on stem, and remove all except about six leaves. Then, after washing the cutting well, scrape the remaining stem, paint with rooting hormone, and plant in regular potting mix. It is best to keep the cutting covered until you are sure no further infestations are present.

Use a plastic bag or plastic container covered with plastic film as shown below. An elastic band can be used to keep film in place, creating a mini glasshouse.

Covered ice cream container

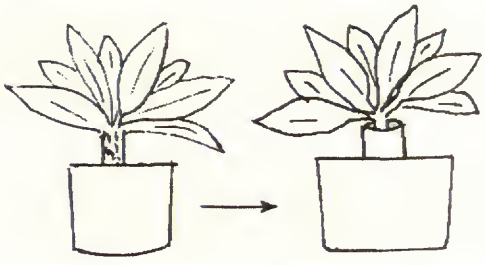


Plant in plastic bag

3. PLANT WITH A GIRAFFE-LIKE NECK

If your plant has developed a giraffe-like neck, it can be salvaged easily by repotting down to cover the neck or taking a crown cutting. Remove the plant from the pot and assess how much of the rootball needs to be cut off to pot the plant down. Use the method shown in the diagram below.

If too much of the rootball needs to be removed, or if you are nervous about new roots developing, you may force new roots to grow from the scraped neck by mounding the potting mix around the stem and covering with a piece of plastic.



New roots should grow after a few weeks, and then you can cut off the bottom of the rootball and repot your rejuvenated plant.

Otherwise, take a crown cutting prepared as shown, paint scraped stem with rooting hormone, and plant in a small pot.

Use a small pot so that your cutting is not surrounded by a lot of wet potting mix. I find that a crown cutting develops roots quite quickly if the pot is placed in a covered container. When potted up into a new pot, it flourishes and I have a new

flowering plant, which has more flowers than a plantlet of the same size.

4. SIDE-SHOOT NIGHTMARE!

If you have been on vacation, or have neglected your plants, causing them to develop side-shoots, you may not only salvage the main plant but also obtain more plants by rooting the side-shoots! First of all, remove the side-shoots carefully using a pointed implement.

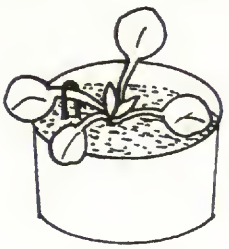
Ceramics tool will remove suckers.

Scalpel may do too much damage to stem.

Skewers or kebab sticks are useful.

Pencils remove sideshoots quite well.

I find that dipping the base of the side-shoot in rooting hormone causes the roots to develop quite quickly. Only plant the side-shoots that have two good center leaves.



Use a hairpin to hold the side-shoot upright in the pot. If it is wobbly, roots will not develop easily. Growing side-shoots produces a plant more quickly than putting down a leaf.

To salvage the main plant, remove old or damaged leaves, scrape the stem, and re-pot down into a new pot. Sometimes, it is best to take a crown cutting. Fresh potting mix and new roots give a new surge of life.

So, if you have a sad plant, a lot can be done to either rescue or improve it!

From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Inc., Australia

Coming Events

February 7 & 8 - FLORIDA
Upper Pinellas African Violet Society Judged Show/Sale
Sunken Gardens
1825 4th St. N.
St. Petersburg, FL
Feb 7 - 10AM - 4:30PM
Feb 8 - Noon - 4 PM
Admission to show is free with the price of admission to the Gardens.
Info: Phyllis King (727) 398-7450

February 14 & 15 - MISSOURI
AVC of Greater Kansas City
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
51st Street & Wornall
Kansas City, MO
Feb 14 - 9am - 3pm
Feb 15 - 11am - 3pm
Info: Fred and Pat Inbody (816) 373 - 6915
Email: kskd1@juno.com

March 7-March 8, 2009 - TEXAS
Spring Branch African Violet Club
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Houston Garden Center
Hermann Park
1500 Hermann Drive
Houston, TX 77004
Mar 7 – show: 1-5pm; plant sale 9am-5pm
Mar 8 – show & sale: 10am-4pm
Info: Elaine Click (713) 462-4257
www.orgsites.com/tx/sbavc
Email: eeclick@aol.com

March 7 & 8 - ARIZONA
Tucson AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Foothills Mall
Ina and La Cholla Blvd.
Marana, AZ
Mar 7 - 10am - 9pm
May 8 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Barbara Fuller (520) 790 - 3439

MARCH 6 & 7 - FLORIDA
Central Florida African Violet Society
Judged Show and Sale
Beardall Senior Center
Orlando, Fl.
Mar 6 - Noon to 4pm
Mar 7 - 10am to 4 pm
Info: eblakely001@cfl.rr.com
or evbriggs@earthlink.net

March 14-15 - LOUISIANA
Sundowners' AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
Baton Rouge Garden Center
7950 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA
March 14 - 2pm - 5pm
March 15 - 11am - 3pm
Info: George Ramirez (985) 384-0309
Email: George.Ramirez@Regions.com

April 18-19 - MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA
Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal Annual Judged Show/Sale
Chalet du parc Maisonneuve
4601 Sherbrooke Street Est,
Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
Both days: 10:00 to 16:00
Info: saintpauliamontreal@hotmail.com
Vox Mail: (514) 9905701

April 19 - TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
Toronto AVS Spring Show/Sale
Toronto Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. E
Toronto, Ontario
Hours: 10am - 3pm
Free Parking
Info: Dave Blakemore
daveblakemore@rogers.com
Don MacDonald (416) 964 - 9305

African Violets from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses

Photo Credit: **Paul Sorano**

Neon Fireflies

Jada Tiara

Sizzlin' Romance

Pretty 'n Pink

Tools

By Sheila Walton

Nature generally looks after itself. Plants in the wild are watered by rain, warmed by sunshine, fed by decaying plant and animal matter, propagated by birds and bees, and thinned out by animals and insects.

People, of course, have a whole different idea of looking after plants, especially those they wish to become perfect in their eyes.

Our plants can't do without water, food, and warmth. However the care we give them as "indoor" plants can involve very little care, or a great deal. Because African violets are grown indoors in our part of the world, they are not subject to the washing of rain or the blowing off of dust by the wind, so there are tools we can use to help keep our plants healthy and pleasing to look at. We are not considering in this article, the potting mix, heat, light and fertilizer required.

Some of the basics are:

A brush that needs to be soft to the touch, but firm enough to brush off dust from the leaves and petioles. You may like to use a brush about 2cm wide for the leaves, an additional brush perhaps about 1/2 cm can be useful for getting between the leaves and into the petioles.

Tweezers can be a good substitute for fingers - especially if you are trying to remove a sideshoot or a stub of a stem from your plant. If you can find tweezers with long handles and a finer point they can be very useful.

Grooming tool or "sucker plucker," or whatever else you like to call it! This is actually a tool used in making ceramics, but proves very useful for removing lower rows of leaves, where it is important to get right to the main stem of the plant. They can also be used to scrape the bare stem when repotting a plant. (to encourage root growth)

Skewer/knitting needle is useful for loosening a plant in its pot and assisting in its removal. Small skewers/toothpicks, etc., can also be used to help move leaves into a more symmetrical position.

Stanley knife/razor blades are necessary when cutting a petiole to put down a leaf, or when repotting a plant with a large root mass, (it is sometimes necessary to slice off part of the base.)

Pen/pencil to write the name of your plant and the date on the side of the pot. You may wish to use electrician's tape to write on, or write directly on to the pot.

Scissors: Small nail scissors can assist in cutting leaves from trailers, where a small stub left on the main stem could encourage growth of a new crown; removal of the first flower on a flower stalk to enable the other flowers to develop more evenly in size.

Spoon to put potting mix into pots. Sometimes a dessert/table size spoon is useful when dealing with larger plants, but a teaspoon can be easier to manage when potting minis and semiminis.

Wicks: Although these may not be considered tools, they are an important part of the care of the plant, so my jar of wicks is always handy. I use acrylic yarn and a piece of hardboard (mine is 10x13cm) winding the yarn around the board I can cut it into the required lengths a quantity at a time. This is then rinsed through detergent, clean water, and then stored in a jar ready for use.

Collars are used to support the foliage to create good symmetry and also can be used to judge the size of the plant. Sheets of styrene foam can be cut into a circle with a hole in the centre for the pot, if cut carefully the central hole can support the pot under its rim. This is good for the growing of the plant and also gives protection when transporting.

If you are growing minis and semi minis, there is a size restriction for these plants, 6" and 8" so by having your collar measuring this size, you will easily see if it is too big, and needs a row of leaves to be removed.

Paper plates can also be used, they can have a circle cut in the centre to allow for the main stem of the plant, and then cut in half and slipped under the leaves on top of the potting mix. As they are likely to be in contact with potting mix, it can be advisable to use plastic coated plates. Plastic plates could be rather sharp edged and could damage your plant.

Hand towel is handy to wipe your hands on while you work. It's not very practical to wash your hands every time there is a little dirt on them, but dirty hands transfer dirt to the plant leaves and everything you touch, so being able to wipe them is more convenient.

Tool box is obviously not essential, but it is handy to have all your tools together and easy to carry from one place to another as required. A great variety is available from the hardware stores.

Tray: As a rather messy person, I find working on a tray when potting, is one way of keeping the mess in one place and making it easier to clean up. Cheap good size plastic trays are available from the $2 shops and I have found to be a good investment.

2009
Board of Directors Nominees

For AVSA President - Ron Davidson

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve AVSA members the past six (6) years as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice-Presidents and before that as a Director.

My wife, Jan, and I have been married for forty-four years and we have two daughters and two grandchildren, all very special to us. I retired from the military (Army) in 1990, so we have moved a number of times during the time I served my country, but I call Red Oak, Texas, my home as I have lived here since I retired.

I was raised in Oklahoma and graduated from Oklahoma State University with an Engineering Degree. I am a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Texas. Since I retired from the military, I do engineering consulting.

My wife and I are Life Members of AVSA and Senior Judges. I'm also a member of The First African Violet Society of Dallas, North Texas African Violet Judges Council, and Lone Star African Violet Council. I have served as President, Vice-president, and Treasurer of these local clubs a number of times. I have been Show Chair and Convention Chair for both the local and state shows/conventions.

I have worked on the AVSA convention show entries/classification committee for every convention since the entries program was implemented in Houston in 1999. I serve the AVSA Show and Judges Committee as the member responsible for the show entries/classification and judging of the commercial section of the convention shows.

My goals as the President of AVSA are: to serve the members, ensure that benefits from an AVSA membership are not deteriorated, improve the financial situation of AVSA, support the Anne & Frank Endowment Fund for the future of the AVSA to make the convention/show a lasting experience, and to encourage more members to attend.

I have been very active in serving the members of AVSA. My passions in life are my family, hunting, horses, and African violets.

It would be a great honor to serve the members of AVSA as President along with the outstanding AVSA members that have been nominated to serve as Officers and Directors.

For First Vice-President **- Linda Golubski**

Linda Golubski of Blue Springs, Missouri, has been a member of AVSA since 1985. She is a life member, Senior AVSA judge, Master TGS judge and has served AVSA as Third Vice President, Awards Committee chairman, Nominating Committee chairman, and as a member of the Membership and Promotions Committee. She is currently serving as Second Vice President and as a member of the Salary Committee and Society Awards Committee. She was also information chairman for the 1989 AVSA Convention in Kansas City.

Linda is a member of the Unpredictable African Violet Society of Blue Springs, and has served that society in all offices. She has also served several times as show chairman. She is a member Missouri Valley African Violet Council and is currently serving her second term as treasurer. She has also served as the society's President and show chairman. She is also a member of Heart of America Gesneriad Society where she has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Show Chairman. Linda has also been the director of the African Violet Show for the Missouri State Fair since 1990.

She is a graduate of Hartford Airline Personnel School, Kansas City Business College, and has attended Philadelphia Community College, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She is employed by Ozark National Life Insurance Company in Kansas City as their controller.

Linda has four children and 11+ (one due in March) grandchildren. She enjoys spoiling the grandchildren and traveling. She collects vintage costume broaches and likes to crochet intricate lace.

As a hobby that she has had for over 50 years, Linda grows about 500 African violets, other gesneriads, orchids, and cacti. She really enjoys the challenge of obtaining and growing rare and unusual gesneriads. She frequently lectures on the other gesneriads, design, and the African violet species.

For 2nd Vice President **- John Carter**

John Carter was born and grew up in Colorado before moving to Oklahoma where he met and married his wife Judy. They have been married 34 years. John graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in business, specializing in accounting and economics. He worked for Amoco Corporation and various subsidiaries as a computer systems analyst for over 33 years in both Tulsa and Houston.

John became Judy's helper in the early 80's after he

bought her an African violet and she joined the African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa. John assisted with shows and programs for over twenty years before he "officially" joined in the activity. In 2000 John became a student judge and is now an Advanced Judge.

In 1997 John was asked to review the computing needs of the AVSA office and insure that everything was Y2 compliant. John developed a proposal, which was approved by the Executive Committee, and he purchased the computers and software required to oversee the migration to the new system. He still serves as chairman of the Technology Committee.

John began helping with national conventions at the 1999 convention in Houston. He then moved to Oklahoma and became part of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council and assisted with the 2000 convention in Omaha. John has helped in some capacity at every convention since that time and has served two terms as an AVSA Director. John has also been a member of the Awards and the Internet committees. In 1999 John was recognized with a One-year Honorary Membership Award and in 2006 with a Continuing Service Award. John has served the past two years as Third Vice President of AVSA, and was the chairman of the 2008 AVSA Convention held in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

John serves as assistant treasurer at his church, where he is responsible for the payroll and getting bills paid on time. John's other interests are in woodworking and roses. You may have seen some of his hand-made pens at the auctions the past several years. John is a Consulting Rosarian and has held various offices in the Tulsa Rose Society. He was the chairman of the 2004 Fall American Rose Society Convention and Show that was held in Tulsa. He is currently the webmaster and editor of their newsletter.

For Third Vice President - **Winston J. Goretsky**

Winston J. Goretsky is a native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He has been a member of AVSA since 1982, a Life Member since 1986, a Senior Judge since 1994, and became a Judge's Teacher in 2002. In October 2008, Winston became a Master Judge. He was appointed to the AVSA Shows & Judges committee in 2007 and serves on the AVSA Publications Committee.

He is a Life Member of the African Violet Society of Canada, where he has served as a Director for a number of years, and then President from 2000 – 2002 and is currently serving as Treasurer, and is the 2009 Convention Chairman for the AVS of Canada's National Convention and Show.

He has served on many committees, and is an active member of the Stampede City AVS. He conducts workshops on African violets and gives presentations on a variety of topics. He publishes his local club's Newsletter, serves as the Membership and Publicity Chairman, and is involved with a number of the Show Committees for his local Affiliate.

Winston has been photographing local affiliate and convention African violet shows in both Canada and the United States for many years. He is the official AVSA Show Photographer for the *African Violet Magazine* and his photographs are regularly published in *Chatter*, the quarterly Journal of the AVS of Canada, along with other horticultural magazines and theme-related topics.

Winston's love for African violets began as a youth, and was encouraged by his grandmother, Lena Berkech, who supplied him with his first African violet. He has been growing them since about 1974, and loves to encourage others by sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm about his favorite plant. Along with African violets, Winston also grows a wide range of Gesneriads, which he gladly shares and encourages others to grow.

Winston has been a computer professional for over 25 years and is currently employed as a Systems Specialist by Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. He was married to Laurel in September 1997, and has two children; Emily (9) and Carter (7). The whole family shares an enthusiasm for plant life and gets involved in their own way. Emily recently corrected her science teacher, by pointing out the fifth season of the year as "African Violet Season", where her parents fly off each year to attend conventions.

For Treasurer – **Sue Ramser**

Sue Ramser of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls for thirty-three years. She has served as show chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President nine times.

As member of the Lone Star African Violet Council, Sue has served as newsletter editor twice, Parliamentarian, Secretary, Vice President, and President. She is also active in the North Texas African Violet Judges Council, having served as Corresponding Secretary, Secretary, Vice President, and President.

Sue has served as a member of the AVSA classification committee, aide to the president for the 1988 AVSA Convention in Dallas, vice chairman of the AVSA Affiliate Committee, elected director, AVSA Sales and Promotion Table Volunteer Coordinator, Secretary of the Shows and Judges Committee, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policies and Procedures Committee, and AVSA Secretary. Sue is an AVSA Life Member, Master Judge, and Teacher. In 1993 she compiled "Teaching Tools" and is currently working on its revision.

Sue is a graduate of the University of North Texas, Denton, with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Her husband Charles is a Professor of Management at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. They have four children. Sue's other interests include sewing and knitting.

For Treasurer - **Edna Rourke**

Edna is a Master Judge as well as a Life Member of AVSA. She has served AVSA in many capacities: staging chair of the Boston Convention, workshop presenter at both the Boston and Lancaster conventions. Edna has written several articles for the AVM on design including those on how design entries are judged, terrariums, dishgardens, and arrangements. She has served twice on the board of directors and is chairman of the Auction Committee. She is also a member of the Affiliates and Convention Committees.

Edna is the current President of the Naugatonic African Violet Society, past president and current Treasurer of the Nutmeg State African Violet Society, a member of the Tri-State Judges Council and Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society.

In addition to maintaining her violets, Edna enjoys hybridizing both violets and Streps and has had several of them registered. Her other hobbies include reading, crocheting, cross stitching, and oil painting. She is secretary to the Headmaster of the Shelton Intermediate School. She and her husband Al reside in Shelton, CT, and are the parents of two sons.

For Director - **Barbara Elkin**

As a former Director of AVSA, it is a privilege to be nominated for a second term. I joined AVSA in 1974, became a Life Member at the 1981 AVSA Convention in San Francisco, and I'm still in love with violets.

I took the first test to become a judge in 1978, and now, many tests later, I am a Master Judge and Teacher with 25 AVSA Schools under my belt. In all the years, I have never missed an AVSA Convention, about 31, I think, and I was convention chair for two of those. I am currently working on the 2009 Reno convention.

I am currently Vice President of Capital City AVS and President of Delta Gesneriad and AVS. Besides having held all committee positions, I have also been President, Vice President, and Secretary for both clubs. I also have held all officer positions for The Northern California Council of African Violet Societies.

I have chaired the Vintage Violets Committee for the last 14 years. The success of this committee's work is so popular that I now have a Vice Chair, Jeanne Ayer, to help me.

My husband and I will celebrate our 60th anniversary next year. We have three children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, and expect more in the future. We celebrated the 10th B. J. Elkin's first birthday in July. In addition to family events, we enjoy cruising, and I grow and can fruits and vegetables for which I've won numerous awards at local fairs.

For Director - **Richard Follett**

Rich attended his first AVSA convention in Washington, D.C. in 2002 and joined AVSA on the spot as a Life Member. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Richmond African Violet Society and also founded the Shenandoah Saintpaulia Society, an AVSA affiliate club in the Shenandoah Valley. Rich has served at various times as Recording Secretary, Librarian, Judges Chairman, and Vice President for the Richmond African Violet Society and as President of the Shenandoah Saintpaulia Society.

He is currently President of the Mid-Atlantic African Violet Society, for which he has also served as Awards Chairman (2007 and 2008), and Convention Chair (2008). In addition to being a Life Member of AVSA, Rich is also a Life Member of the Gesneriad Society, the African Violet Society of Canada, and the Dixie African Violet Society.

For AVSA, Rich has served as Program Coordinator (2007 and 2008), as a member of the Library Committee (2007 and 2008), has presented National Convention programs, and has been a frequent contributor to the *African Violet Magazine*. He is an AVSA judge who has served either as judge or as clerk for every MAAVS and AVSA show since 2005. Rich is an educator who actively promotes the enjoyment of African violets in his classroom and community, working to foster a new generation of African violet enthusiasts. He has worked consistently to support the goals, members, and projects of AVSA.

For Director - **Terry Klemesrud**

It is an honor to be nominated as an AVSA director.

I have grown African violets for over 30 years. After retiring from banking and school bus driving in 1997, I joined AVSA and the African Violet Society of Minnesota. Until then, I didn't know that African violets were to be grown with a single crown! I have learned so very much since then and have made many good friends in our Minnesota society where I have been their treasurer for almost six years. My membership in a smaller AVSM affiliate club that meets more often also helps to satisfy my African violet addiction!

My husband, Rick, and I have two grown sons, a lovely daughter-in-law, and three granddaughters. Rick has been very helpful and understanding when it comes to my new "hobby" by making me my own potting and cleanup areas and a pumping system for watering.

My dog, Windsor, who many of you have seen at our national conventions, loves sitting in my plant room while I tend to my many violets and gesneriads.

Thank you for the nomination. If elected, I will be proud to serve AVSA as a director.

For Director **- Beverly Powers**

I am honored to accept the nomination to serve as an AVSA director. I look forward to doing my part helping AVSA grow and thrive.

My interest in violets began with a plant inherited from my mother. I was later fortunate to stumble across the three Dallas clubs' sale in the mall. When I wanted more violets in the fall, the mall gave me the number of Janice Davidson. As luck would have it, the Lone Star African Violet Council was having the state convention in Dallas that weekend. Having never seen show plants, I was amazed. I joined The First African Violet Society of Dallas in 2001 and later Lone Star African Violet Council and AVSA. Then, being in the same club with Bill Foster, I of course became a judge and joined North Texas African Violet Judges Council. I have held all offices in The FAVS of Dallas and have been show chairman twice. I have also held several offices in North Texas African Violet Judges Council. I am currently vice president of both organizations. Since becoming a judge I have judged or clerked for all but one Lone Star AVC Show and every AVSA Show.

I stopped work years ago to start a family. After raising three wonderful children, I turned my motherly instincts to my violets. At times I am not sure which is more challenging, teenagers or violets. At least you always know where the violets are, but on the other hand, violets never outgrow that infant stage of total dependency. Like infants, I can't help but love them all. Two years ago, my husband Will and I gave up retirement to become Realtors. Real Estate is very time consuming, and at times, my violets have to thrive on love and neglect.

For Director **- Patricia J. Sutton**

I became interested in African Violets in the early 1970's. At that time, I was growing African violets on my kitchen windowsill. One day, my neighbor noticed them and told me about the African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa that had recently organized. She invited me to attend meetings and I joined the club in January 1976. I also joined the African Violet Society of America and later joined the Missouri Valley African Council. I have been active in all three organizations and have served multiple offices.

I still enjoy growing, showing, and judging African violets, and will become a Master Judge in 2009. In addition to my other duties, I served as Show Chairman for the AVSA Convention in 2009 in Tulsa, OK.

On a personal note, my husband Jerry and I have been married for 54 years and have three children, four grandchildren and currently have seven great grandchildren.

It would be a honor to again serve as a director of the African Violet Society of America.

"VIVA VIOLETS!"

By Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Dr.
Oakdale, PA 15071

Where have all the African violets gone? There seem to be fewer and fewer in our shows. Gesneriads are trying to steal the spotlight at the shows I have been to lately. Yes, gesneriads are easier to grow, and I love them, but I challenge you to grow some African violets, too. For every gesneriad you enter, try to enter an African violet! The public comes to see and purchase African violets, and we are an African violet Society.

Try to stage a show that features the African violet foremost. Truthfully, I have always been intimidated by the huge African violets and never thought I could grow them. But the violets are so beautiful, I am going to try. We must never let them be out-numbered by gesneriads.

How can we solve this dilemma? Should the number of gesneriads in an African violet show be limited? Should the non-blooming gesneriads be limited? Which gesneriads are really grown for ornamental foliage? Can show schedules limit the amount of gesneriad entries? How can we inspire other growers to grow African violets?

If you have an idea to help solve this situation, please, contact me, or one of our AVSA officers, or Bill Foster, our Judges' Chairman. Please, don't think I am abandoning my Gesneriads! I'm not. I just want everyone to appreciate and grow our wonderful African violets, as well!

Springtails

By Joyce Stork

Are there are little white/gray bugs in the bottom of your wick-watered plants?

These critters are called springtails, and their unusual tail allows them to move quickly. Attached to the tip of the abdomen is a forked appendage resembling a lever. At rest, a clasp holds this appendage to the abdomen. When disturbed, the clasp opens, releasing the appendage, which strikes the ground causing the insect to spring into the air. Thus the name "springtail." They are capable of springing up to about four inches into the air. They live in, lay eggs in, and feed on decayed matter in the potting mix and thrive where there is standing water. They depend on high humidity and constant dampness. They do not cause damage to the violets unless you happen to be a hybridizer who might have some tiny little seedlings sprouting. Springtails are mostly just unsightly.

They are fairly easy to control, but you need to be thorough when you do it because they spread easily to other plants. Begin by removing all of the plants to another area. Wipe off all nearby surfaces including the plant stand and the outside of pots with a soapy cloth. Empty all of the wicking reservoirs and wash them well before refilling them with fresh water. Apply an appropriate insecticidal granule to the top of the soil or drench the pot with an insecticide (or insecticidal soap) designed for this use. Be sure to apply all around the top of the soil and not just on one side of the pot. Look for "springtails" on the label as one of the insects that is controlled by the product, and be sure it is safe for use on African violets.

From the FAQ section of the AVSA Web Site.

ATTENTION AVSA AFFILIATES:

Don't Forget the Inventory Clearance Sale on 2009 AVSA Calendar

Have you gotten your African violet calendar for next year yet? Obtain the gorgeous second edition of the AVSA Calendar before the end of the year at a special reduced rate! There is still a good supply available but don't delay!

Buy the 2009 calendar now and receive the clearance rate of only $10 each, shipping and handling included. That's nearly 30% off the previously advertised price!

Do you need a quantity for your club members? Twenty or more calendars may be purchased at the reduced rate of just $8 each plus the cost of shipping. Contact the AVSA office for details. Canadians and international members, please contact the AVSA office for your special pricing.

These calendars are great gifts. Every page is 13 1/2 wide x 10 1/2 high. Each month features a spectacular photo of show-winning violets, gesneriads, or designs, as well as the growers' and hybridizers' names. Every month lists the moon signs and has lots of room to jot down activities and appointments. It is the perfect addition to your growing room or office. Place your orders today!

AVSA Office
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
Phone 409-839-4725
or order from the website at www.avsa.org

Vintage Violets

By Barbara Elkin, *Vintage Violets Committee*

2855 Gayle Lane • Auburn, CA 95602-9674

Email: bjbar121@yahoo.com

With the change in the AVSA Most Wanted column, things have been slow. Hopefully, it will pick up soon. The entire list of AVSA Most Wanted plants was in the November/December 2008 AVM. Thanks to all of you participating in Vintage Violets.

Yes, 2008 was a banner year. At the Tulsa convention, the Reno Convention Committee made enough money for a really great convention in Reno, The Biggest Little City in the Country. The tours were especially booked for you to see the best of Nevada. Reno sits in a basin with the tall Sierras as a backdrop. I know you will enjoy Reno.

As for me, I am richer by far with another great-grandchild. Brenden Jarryod is the tenth B. J. Elkin in our large family. This makes three great-grandchildren, two girls and a boy.

I started to re-pot the entire greenhouse to have respectable plants for Reno and have no idea of how many plants there are out there! Today I worked on the babies. Take one off the clump and pass the rest on to members. Sounds good, huh? Unfortunately, there are 17 trays of babies! All in good time, I say.

Garden State AVS

The Garden State African Violet Club was founded in Trenton, New Jersey, on November 19, 1948. We are proud to be celebrating our 60th Anniversary this year! GSAVC has been affiliated with the African Violet Society of America since January 9, 1952, and with the Tristate African Violet Council since 1962. The goal of the GSAVC is to promote the enjoyment and cultivation of African violets. Our club motto is ***"Friendship Through Violets."*** Our website is http://www.princetonol.com/groups/gsavc.

GREAT IDEA

By Kat MacNeil

Did you ever say to yourself, "why didn't I think of that?" That's exactly what I said when I heard this…

It was education time at our monthly violet club meeting. Kathy Lahti was the speaker. We all got out our notebooks and moved our chairs closer so we wouldn't miss a thing. Kathy always gives a great program, explaining, and better yet, showing, as great teachers do. We always learn when she gives a program.

Kathy had just returned from a show in Iowa and had a new idea to share with our club.

When you buy a leaf in a plastic bag, take it home and put it down *in the plastic bag.*

That's right! Just make a fresh cut on the end, put a little potting mix in the corner of the bag, a splash of water, and close it back up. You can clothespin or tape these little African violet bags anywhere (like on a window or under your lights.) It's a great space and time saver, and the leaves love it. They are in a warm, damp, mini greenhouse. At the Iowa show, they were selling the leaves with baby plants already sprouting, and people were snapping them up.

What a great idea! Why didn't I think of that?

Soilless Mix?

By Nancy Carr

What is Soilless Mix?

Soilless mix is the culture medium in which we grow our African violets. It is usually a mixture of equal parts Canadian milled sphagnum peat, perlite, and vermiculite.

Why do we use a soilless mix?

Sphagnum peat closely resembles the texture of the loam in which African violets have been found growing in the wild – a light, airy, well-drained material. Garden soil in my area has a high percentage of clay which is heavy and gets hard. Roses love it, but African violets don't. Perlite adds air to the mix and helps with water retention, as does the vermiculite. Vermiculite holds water but is not heavy.

Another reason we use sphagnum peat is that it is sterile: free of microorganisms. In the closed system (pots) in which our African violets grow, bacteria doesn't have the natural checks and balances that is available outdoors to keep them from over-running the plant. If the bag of sphagnum peat you buy is unopened and has no holes in it, chances are there are no insects in it either.

Another reason we use sphagnum peat is that it is sterile; free of microorganisms. In the closed system (pots) in which our African violets grow, bacteria doesn't have the natural checks and balances that is available outdoors to keep them from over-running the plant.

What are Mix formulas:

Most mix formulas are 1-1-1 of sphagnum peat, coarse perlite, and coarse vermiculite as the basic blend. Some growers add an extra 1/2 measure of perlite to lighten the mix. If you are making your own blend from scratch, then the pH of the mix must be adjusted to between 6 and 7. Sphagnum peat is an acidic material with a pH of 4. To bring this up to about 6.5, dolomite lime is added by the teaspoonful depending on how large a batch you are making. In other words, a little dolomite lime goes a long way. Perlite and vermiculite are neutral and have no effect on pH.

The reason dolomite lime is recommended is because it has the trace element Magnesium (in addition to Calcium). Magnesium is important in the production of chlorophyll and in photosynthesis. Some growers use other additives. Pat Hancock, in one of her presentations to our club, said she adds Baccto, a sterilized organic material, to her mix, and her plants grow really large. This is a trial and error procedure – finding which additive works best in your conditions, or if you need other additives. It also takes a lot of time, and trials should only be done on a few plants at a time. Therefore, if a trial doesn't work, you won't lose your whole collection. I suggest you keep a notebook on what you are trying and how it works for you.

There is one shortcut, however: pre-prepared, pH adjusted soil mixes. Our club has one brand available, Volkmann's, used by many of our members.

Available in garden centers around town are various sized packages of African Violet Soil Mix. Check the ingredients, make sure it is pH adjusted and contains sphagnum peat, perlite, and vermiculite. I usually avoid the ones with fertilizer because I don't have any control over the amount in the mix. African violets are light feeders, they might get burned by the fertilizer in the mix. Also, I can't wick water using a soilless mix with fertilizer.

Pro-Mix is another blend that has been talked about at my local club meetings. This product is from a Canadian company and contains Canadian milled sphagnum peat, rather than the coarser Michigan or Colorado types. Pro-mix is more readily available than it used to be, and comes in various sized bags and bales.

For these pre-prepared mixes: Volkmann's, African Violet Potting Soil, or Pro-Mix, I would add perlite and vermiculite: 1 part potting mix + 1 1/2 parts perlite + 1 part vermiculite. This makes a light soilless mix for your African violets.

From *African Violet Notes*,

Photo Credit: **Mark Weston**

Ness' Orange Pekoe

Grown and Photographed by: ***Mark Weston***

Hybridized by: ***D. Ness***

Large

Photo Credit: **Patti Jacko**

Little Axel

Exhibited by: ***Martha Bell***

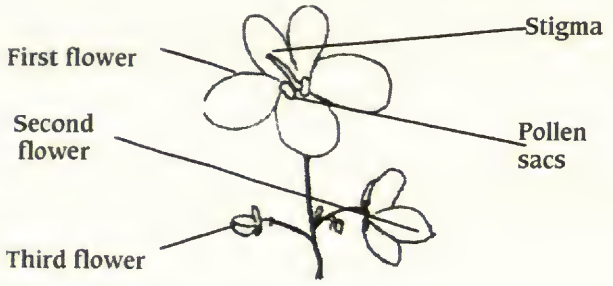
Hybridized by: ***Lyon/Sorano***

Semi-miniature

PRACTICAL HYBRIDIZING OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

By Sue Gardner

Use the following diagram for reference.



STEPS IN HYBRIDIZING

ESTABLISH YOUR GOALS

Always work out what you want to accomplish before starting. Size of plant, leaf shape, and color, flower shape, size and color should be considered. Remember that dominant genes of either parent will influence the offspring.

SELECT SEED PARENT

The flower of the seed parent should have an obvious stigma. The first flower on a peduncle is usually sticky when the second flower has just opened.

SELECT POLLEN PARENT

The pollen sacs should be full and fresh, not dried up. A newly-opened flower is usually best. Pollen can be saved after harvesting for further use.

COLLECT POLLEN

Remove pollen sacs from flower and place on a sheet of paper or a dark tile. Cut open with a sharp blade and pollen should spill out. It may need a few bumps with the blade for this to occur.

POLLINATING

Using the blade, your fingernail, or a small brush, collect pollen and place it onto the sticky stigma. It should stay there. Pollinate several suitable flowers to ensure fertilization in at least one.

MARKING FLOWER

Tie a piece of colored wool around peduncle to avoid accidentally removing fading flowers.

WAIT!

The ovary of the fertilized flower should swell within two weeks and become prominent as the flower petals die off. This becomes the seed pod. It will stay green for a while and then gradually turn brown and dry.

HARVEST POD

When the pod is brown and the pedicel (flower stalk) is thin and completely dried, the pod can be removed. Place in an envelope marked with the parent plant names and the date. The seed can be sown immediately or saved for later use. Seed will often germinate more quickly if fresh.

PREPARE POT FOR SEED SOWING

Use a peat pot for seed sowing. Place the compressed peat pot in a polystyrene cup, add boiling water, and watch it swell. When it has completely expanded, remove excess water and allow to cool.

SOW SEED

Place a piece of white paper on a bench away from drafts. Cut open the seed pod and tap to remove the seed. It is usually black and minute! Don't sneeze or the seed will blow away! Carefully fold the paper so that all the seed is in a crease line down the middle of the paper. This allows you to sow the seed evenly. Tilt the paper and allow the seed to fall onto the surface of the peat pot. Don't sow too much or your seedlings will be a big tangle. Keep excess seed for future use. Cover cup with plastic wrap and place in a warm, brightly lit position.

SEEDLINGS!

Seedlings usually appear in 2-6 weeks. They are tiny green dots at first. Keep moist but not drowned. After a few weeks, they will have grown and can be separated and planted in another container or small pots.

SELECTING SEEDLINGS TO KEEP

Allow seedlings to grow until flowers form. Decide if the flowers are different and attractive, but if not, discard the plants. We are often so pleased to have produced new plants that we want to keep them all! After a while, we become more discerning and only grow plants that are suitable to be named. Consult an experienced grower if you are undecided. Grow the plant to three generations by leaf cuttings to be sure it will be stable.

NOTES FOR SELECTING PLANTS FOR HYBRIDIZING

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?

When hybridizing, most of us dream of producing a beautiful new African violet. However, we need to have some idea of what characteristics we want our new variety to have before we can select parent plants. To establish your goals, ask yourself the following questions:

Do I want light or dark foliage?

What size plant do I want?

Do I want large flowers (which may droop under their own weight) or do I want sturdy flowers?

What colors am I striving to obtain?

Do I want blooms that are held high in the center of the plant, or those that are distributed in a "halo" style?

CHOOSING PLANTS

After establishing goals, look at the plants you own and select those that have the required traits.

*If you want a high percentage of new plants with a particular trait, cross two plants with that trait.

*If, however, you want a variety of traits in the offspring, cross plants that differ. This can often produce the most interesting results.

*If you want larger flowers, select plants with star shaped blooms, as this should ensure large flowers.

*If you want flowers that are held high over the center of the foliage, select parents with these characteristics as both parents control flower stalk strength.

In living organisms, genes control the characteristics of that organism. They exist in pairs with offspring inheriting one from each parent. Dominance of a trait means that one gene for that trait will control the characteristic even though another gene is present. The gene, which is not expressed, is said to be recessive. It is said that brown eyes in humans dominate blue eyes. It is really not that simple, but it helps us understand what "dominance" means.

Note the following:

1. If you cross parents that express a recessive trait, you will obtain offspring with that recessive trait.
2. If the parents both contain two dominant genes for a trait, all the offspring will have that dominant trait.
3. Plants with dominant traits may, however, carry a recessive gene that they can pass on. So, if in both parents, the dominant flower color is hiding a recessive gene, you will obtain a percentage of offspring with the recessive flower color. For example, lavender flower color could hide pink, red, or white, so if crossed with another lavender flower, could produce some offspring with different flower colors.

Following are tables of dominant and recessive traits in African violets. These are taken from articles by Dr. Jeff Smith printed in the *African Violet Magazine* publication of the African Violet Society of America. Use them when selecting plants.

FOLIAGE

Dominant

Girl Foliage
Ruffled Foliage
Holly Foliage
Longifolia Foliage
Red Backed Leaves

Recessive

Boy Foliage
Plain Foliage
Rounded Shape
Green/Silver Backed Leaves

FLOWERS

Dominant

Pansy or Violet Shape
Double Flowers
Semidouble Flowers
Geneva Edge
Fringed Edge
Fantasy Dots
Mottled Flowers

Recessive

Star Shape
Single Flowers
Colored Edge
Plain Edge
Solid Color

Dominant Colors

Blue
Red
Lavender
All Colors
Pale Shades
Coral Red
Non-Coral Colors

Recessive Colors

All other flower colors
Pink, White
Red, Pink, White
White
Coral Colors
Coral Pink
Dark Shades

From the *Newsletter* of the
Early Morn AV Group, Australia

Violets for

Dish Garden
Exhibited by: **Eleanor Elston**

Natural Garden
Exhibited by: **Audrey Moir**

Labour Day
Exhibited by: **Paul Kroll**

Holiday Season
Exhibited by: **Karyn Cichocki**

all Seasons

Courtesy of the AVSA of Canada
Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Flu Season
Exhibited by: **Julie Thompson**

Winter Wonderland
Exhibited by: **Judy Zinni**

Spring
Exhibited by: **Karyn Cichocki**

October
Exhibited by: **Jan Murasko**

A Violet Bucket

By Joyce Stork

African violet "bucket"

Eileen in South Carolina sent a recent email and the photo you see here to the AVSA office asking for information. She has grown violets for a while, but she had never seen this particular phenomenon. Maybe you haven't seen a 'bucket' either.

'Bucket' is a term used by old-time violet growers to describe a tiny plantlet that develops on a flower stem. It is not just the wing leaves that regularly appear on the peduncles, but an actual plantlet with a rosette of leaves. Eileen described hers as having seven tiny leaves and measuring one and half inches in diameter. Some varieties develop buckets more commonly than others, so it must be a genetic trait. Even so, it is an uncommon occurrence.

A bucket will not thrive if simply left in place. It must be planted if it is to develop into a full-size plant. Here's an easy way to pot it up:

1) Remove the bucket from the blossom stem by gently cutting below the lowest leaves.

2) Loosely fill a small squatty pot with moist potting mix that is quite porous (with lots of perlite or vermiculite).

3) Set the bucket atop the soil and gently press it down a bit so that the stem end will be in contact with the moist potting mix. Water it lightly, just enough that it drips slightly.

4) Place the plant and pot into a clear plastic bag (zipper bags work well) and seal it closed. Set the plant out of direct sunlight but in a bright location for about one month while it roots. It will not need additional water during this time.

5) At the end of the month, open the bag one day and remove the plant the following day, which allows the little violet to adjust to the change in humidity more gradually.

"Bucket" visible on African violet plant.

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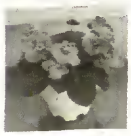

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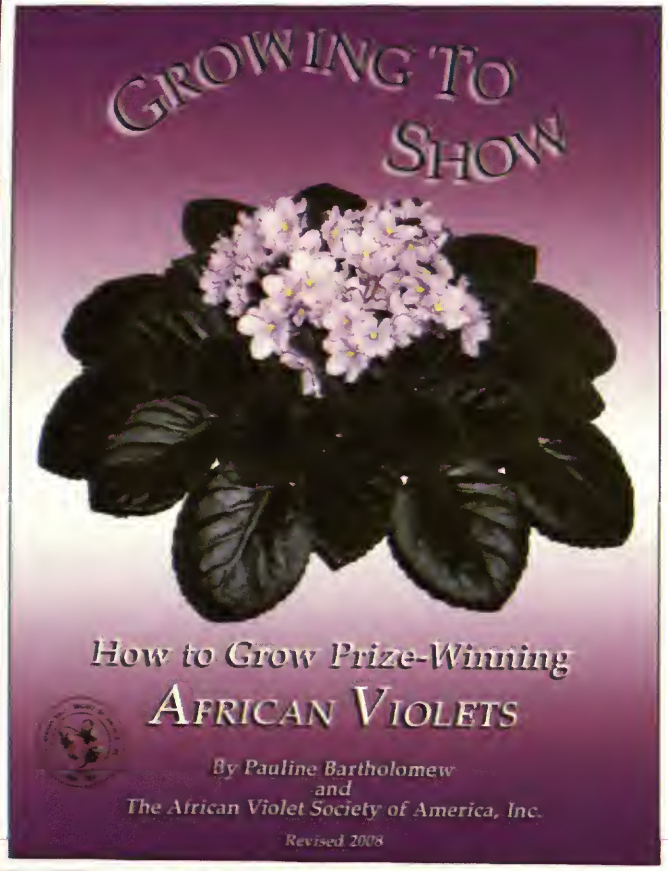

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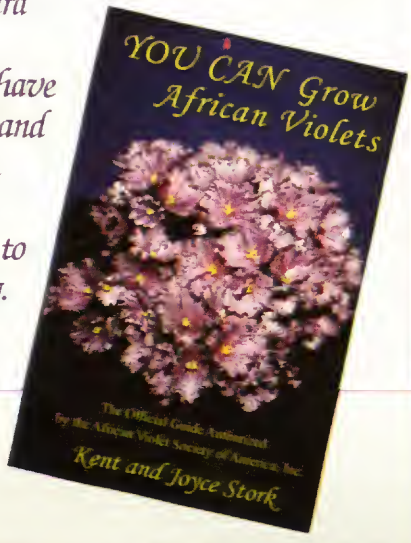

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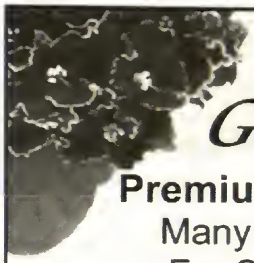

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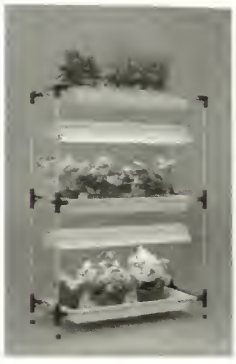

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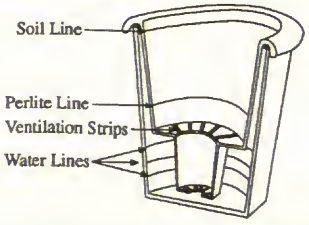

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